

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

January 7, 2013 - Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen. *Excused:* Tammy Ford, Paul Foley

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of December 3, 2012 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$350.47 in the operating fund and \$1,526 in the donation account was approved. \$278.51 remains encumbered from FY '12 for the Tidd sign. \$200 in the donation account is Mr. Saia's donation for the Tidd gates sign.

3. Web Site

- No report. The existing web site is out-of date. The latest house markers are not listed, nor is the 2012 Heritage Award winner.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications. Joanne sent an application to Tyler Snow, the owner of 79 Hancock Street. Margaret will bring a photo of 79 Hancock Street to the February meeting. Joanne will speak with her brother-in-law about a marker for 523 Main Street. Possible occupations for William Gorham include 'shoes' or 'jobber'.

5. Burial Ground

- Tammy has rescheduled the OBG video "Final Addresses" until March when she returns from surgery.
- Marcia has made no progress on securing three quotes on 18-20 OBG gravestone repairs, due to illness.
- Steve will reschedule his appointment with Ralph Barile regarding the marker for J. Parker Gould.
- Mary Todd and Marcia agreed that the Stoneham Room would be the repository of one copy of the OBG Master Preservation Plan with overnight borrowing privileges. The document does not appear to be in the room. Margaret will follow up with Mary Todd. Other copies are located at the DPW office, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (2) and with Marcia Wengen for the Historical Commission.

6. Tidd Gates

- Marcia will attend the Jan 23 Historical Society meeting to resolve questions about which picture is being requested, the size and quality requirements of the image.
- Steve noted that the Historical Society is requiring a license agreement for the specific use of Mr. Tidd's mansion picture. He did not know the fee.
- The Cambridge Tire Building at 454 Main Street has not been demolished yet.

7. Community Preservation Act (CPA)

- After a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons, the members voted to postpone the vote on the CPA until the February meeting, when hopefully 6 of the 7 members will be present.

8. Annual Report

- Steve has an email from Erin Sinclair in the Selectmen's Office regarding the annual report due date of January 18. Marcia provided information of the Master Preservation Plan and the Section 106 telecommunications requests. Margaret will provide a list of recent house markers.

• New Business

- Steve noted that the terms of three members will expire on April 30 -Tammy, Margaret and Steve
- Steve reminded the members to begin thinking about nominees for the annual Heritage Award.

The meeting ended at 8:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 11, 2013 - Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Paul Foley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.

*Excused:* Tammy Ford, Joanne DiMambro Joan Quigley,

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of January 7, 2013 were approved.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$350.47 in the operating fund and \$1,576 in the donation account was approved. Joan and Marcia researched three questions for a Norwood resident who made a \$50 donation to our account. \$278.51 remains encumbered from FY '12 for the Tidd sign. \$200 in the donation account is Mr. Saia's contribution for the Tidd gates sign.

### 3. Web Site

- Marcia reported that Tom Cicutelli is revising the Town webpage and after it is live he may be willing to give the HC a password to update our information.

### 4. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications. Margaret presented a picture of 79 Hancock Street but it may not meet our criteria of maintaining its basic character.

### 5. Burial Ground

- Marcia has made no progress on securing three quotes on 18-20 OBG gravestone repairs. Town Administrator announced on Feb 5 that the snow removal budget was in jeopardy. Then the blizzard of Feb 8-9 arrived. It appears there will be no funding for the OBG from the DPW.
- Steve will reschedule his appointment with Ralph Barile regarding the marker for J. Parker Gould.
- The OBG Master Preservation Plan is stored in the cabinet in front of the Research Librarian's desk and has a call number of 363.69.

### 6. Tidd Gates

- Marcia reported that Marina Memmo was able to successfully photograph the picture of the Tidd mansion showing the gateposts on Hancock Street. The license fee was discounted to \$50. Marcia will send the dropbox address for the photos.
- Mary Marchant, Historical Society Curator, researched the various Tidd houses and determined a built date of 1866 for the Main/Hancock Street property. The fee was \$40.
- The Cambridge Tire Building at 454 Main Street has not been demolished yet.

### 7. Community Preservation Act (CPA)

- No vote was taken on the CPA.

### 8. North School

- Marcia outlined the requested window modifications to North School as discussed with Michael Collins and his architect on January 25, 2013. North School was sold to Michael Collins on February 6 and he will attend our March 4 meeting with window and door drawings for our review.

9. Improvements to Ravine Road

- Two letters regarding Ravine Road traffic improvements arrived since our last meeting.
- The January 10<sup>th</sup> letter from the Mass Historical Commission noted that the Department of Conservation and Recreation proposed to improve traffic safety at the eastern intersection of Ravine Road and Fellsway East. MHC does not have enough information to make a finding of the effect for the proposed work. Note: our Commission never received a copy of DCR's submission.
- The January 15<sup>th</sup> letter from DCR included an annotated aerial view that was omitted from the Project Notification Form. The letter concluded with this statement: "DCR will submit the final design to MHC when available."
- Marcia will send a copy of the National Resister nomination regarding Fellsway East.

10. Heritage Award

- Marcia presented a draft of a request for nominations to be released to the newspapers. The due date is Friday March 29 so we can vote at our April 1 meeting.

11. New Business

- There was no new business.

The meeting ended at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 4, 2013 - Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Public Library

*Present*, Joanne DiMambro, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.

*Excused*: Paul Foley, Tammy Ford, Joan Quigley

*Guests*: Michael Collins, Joe Walsh

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

### 1. North School

- Owner of North School, Michael Collins and his architect, Joe Walsh presented their request for changes to window and door openings for light and egress purposes at the North School.
- Twelve condominiums will be created from the classrooms and gymnasium.
- Collins Development and the Historical Commission compromised on the following window construction (except for doors, sidelites and transoms): windows will be aluminum clad outside, wood inside with an exterior muntin profile (non removable) and a full length clearview screen (at last equivalent to Pella's so-called 'InView Screen") except on the basement windows. A spacer bar sandwiched between the panes of glass is not required as Pella only provides foam spacers which, in the architect's opinion, are inferior to metal spacers.
- The Historical Commission requested further discussion regarding the gutters, the garages, and how the ADA handicapped ramp intersects with the west entrance.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of February 11, 2013 were approved.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$350.47 in the operating fund and \$1,576 in the donation account was approved. \$278.51 remains encumbered from FY '12 for the Tidd sign. \$200 in the donation account is Mr. Saia's contribution for the Tidd gates sign.

### 4. Web Site

- No update available.

### 5. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications. Joanne has not heard from the owner of 79 Hancock Street.

### 6. Burial Ground

- Steve will reschedule his appointment with Ralph Barile regarding the marker for J. Parker Gould.

### 7. Tidd Gates

- Marcia reported that Marina Memmo is working on the layout for the Tidd Gates historical tablet. The Cambridge Tire Building at 454 Main Street has not been demolished yet.

### 8. Community Preservation Act (CPA)

- No vote was taken on the CPA.

9. Heritage Award

- Nominations are due Thursday March 28 in time for our April 1 meeting.

10. New Business

- There was no new business.

The meeting ended at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

April 1, 2013 - Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

*Excused:* Paul Foley, Tammy Ford

*Guest:* Carol Covill

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of March 4, 2013 were approved.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$260.47 in the operating fund and \$1,526 in the donation account was approved. We received another \$50 donation from Mr. Delay for research on John A. Dean. \$278.51 remains encumbered from FY '12 for the Tidd sign. \$200 in the donation account is Mr. Saia's contribution for the Tidd gates sign.

### 3. Web Site

- The new town website is on-line at [www.stonehamma.vt-s.net](http://www.stonehamma.vt-s.net). The Historical Commission page is up-to-date and offers a slide show of the 30 historic house markers.

### 4. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications. Joanne has not heard from the owner of 79 Hancock Street. Bee Russo has expressed her interest to Steve Rotondi about a marker for East School.

### 5. Burial Ground

- Steve will reschedule his appointment with Ralph Barile regarding the marker for J. Parker Gould.
- Marcia will speak with Larry Brophy about when to replace the stakes/yellow caution tape around the hazardous gravestones in the OBG.

### 6. Tidd Gates

- Marcia presented five options for the Tidd Gates sign prepared by Marina Memmo. Members chose the one with rounded edges on the sign, rectangular edges on the pictures and a sepia background (#3CBB).
- Marcia was asked to check with the sign fabricator about the sign fading in sunlight.
- The Cambridge Tire Building at 454 Main Street has not been demolished yet.

### 7. Community Preservation Act (CPA)

- Carol Covill read the article in Stoneham Patch about the CPA being on the Historical Commission agenda. The pros and cons were discussed. No vote was taken by the members. Election day is tomorrow April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### 8. North School

- Marcia reported that owner Michael Collins has accepted an offer on Unit 1, a two bedroom in the southwest corner of the building. He has also accepted an offer on the house on Lot A.
- The foundation on Lot B has been poured.
- No information is available on Michael Collins' choice of windows for North School.

#### 9. Woodland Road

- The Historical Commission received three letters on March 28 from Mass Historical Commission. They were dated 2009 (to Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs), 2102 (to Department of Conservation and Recreation) and 2013 (to EEA). Copies of the letters were mailed to all HC members before tonight's meeting. In each letter, MHC noted that the proposed traffic improvements to Woodland Road will have adverse effects on the Middlesex Fells Reservation Parkways Historic District.
- A 9/19/12 letter was sent to MHC stating that SHC would be pleased to participate in any dialogues regarding Woodland Road improvements. But, no notice was forthcoming regarding the March 18 meeting at the Botume House when DCR reportedly presented the Woodland Road traffic improvements.
- Public comments are being accepted until Tuesday March 26. Later the deadline was extended to Tuesday, April 9.
- Margaret noted an interesting discrepancy between pages 8 and 28 in the on-line Environmental Notification Form (project # 15027). Page 8 mentions "...a projected increase of 4,500 additional daily trips..." while page 28 states "...the project....will not increase the roadway capacity...."
- Members discussed the adverse responses from the City of Melrose and the Friends of the Fells as well as pros and cons of the project. No conclusion was reached and the matter was tabled. Individuals should feel free to express their own opinions via the public comment forum.

#### 10. Heritage Award

- Marcia reported no nominations were received by Thursday March 28. A nomination for Beacon Street LLC (East School) was made by Marcia and unanimously voted by the members.

#### 11. New Business

- Steve announced that he received an email from Tammy Ford thanking us for the opportunity to serve on the Historical Commission but she will not be returning to the Commission, due to "unforeseen circumstances."

The meeting ended at 8:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 7, 2013 - Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen *Absent:* Paul Foley

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

### 1. Reorganization

- Stephen Rotondi and Margaret Warren were reappointed for 3 year terms. Both stated they were sworn in by the Town Clerk. The officers voted in for 2013-4 are: Margaret Warren – Co-Chair, Joan Quigley – Treasurer, Marcia Wengen – Co-Chair & Secretary.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of April 1 were approved with the correction of the donation account from \$1,526 to \$1,626.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$260.47 in the operating fund and \$1,626 in the donation account was approved. The encumbered \$278.51 from FY '12 was spent for a down payment on the Tidd sign. \$200 in the donation account is Mr. Saia's contribution for the Tidd gates sign.

### 4. Web Site

- The following items will be added to the Historic Commission web page: OBG Master Preservation Plan, the 2012 OBG Inventory, and the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.
- Marcia will discuss adding the minutes to the web page with Erin Sinclair.

### 5. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications. Joanne has not heard from the owner of 79 Hancock Street.
- 12 Gerry Street is for sale. Our historic marker is on the house.

### 6. Burial Ground

- Marcia and Larry Brophy, DPW Deputy Director, agreed that the stakes around hazardous gravestones should be replaced in the OBG now for the safety of the workers.
- Joan announced the presentation celebrating some of the occupants in Medford's Salem Street Burying Ground on Monday May 20 at 7pm in the Medford Public Library.
- Steve announced that at the request of the Town Moderator he reported on the reimbursement of the \$20K for the OBG Preservation Master Plan at Town Meeting last night.

### 7. Tidd Gates

- Marcia announced that the Tidd sign is finished and stored at her house until the location is ready, probably in the fall.
- The Cambridge Tire Building at 454 Main Street is expected to be demolished this month.

### 8. North School

- Marcia reported that she is meeting with owner Michael Collins tomorrow at 10 am to review window samples. Mr. Collins also requests a discussion about creating a window opening on the Collincote Street side and an up-date on the garages.

#### 9. Woodland Road

- Marcia attended the April 25 consultation meeting called by the Mass Historical Commission as a legal remedy to their finding that the Corridor Improvements project has an adverse effect on Woodland Road, a property listed on the State Register of Historic Places.
- Other consulting entities include the Friends of the Fells and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Also present were traffic consultants from the BETA Group and Dan Marriott, a historic road consultant.
- Among the adverse effects noted by MHC are: "...a number of roadway changes to Woodland Road that are widespread and invasive, including changes to the entire historic roadway and its intersections. The proposed changes...include construction of a 10-foot wide shared use path along Woodland Road, reduction of the southbound roadway from two lanes to one lane with one left-turn lane provided at each intersection, construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of Ravine Road and Woodland Road, and installation of vehicle and pedestrian traffic signals at Pond Street and South Driveway intersections with Woodland Road."
- DCR/Beta group presented the scope of the project. The meeting followed the guidelines outlined on MA Regulations (950CMR 71.00); i.e., a discussion of ways to eliminate, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects. Mitigation of adverse effects will be discussed when the meeting is continued in May.
- 950 CMR 71.02 reads: "State law does not give the MHC veto authority over the proposed developments, but does direct state bodies to adopt all prudent and feasible means to avoid damaging historic properties."

#### 10. Heritage Award

- The presentation is scheduled for Tuesday May 28 at 7:30 pm in Town Hall.

#### 11. New Business

- The Massachusetts Sesquicentennial Commission of the American Civil War is offering 50% matching grants for worthy applications received by May 17. The members voted unanimously to apply for two grants, one to clean and preserve Col. J. Parker Gould's gravestone and one to erect a historical marker about his life and accomplishments. If the grants are approved, our cost would be \$917.50 for the cleaning and \$237.50 for the historic marker. A balance of \$277.51 would remain in our Donation Account.
- Steve reported that he is exploring the addition of a check off box on the quarterly real estate bills for contributions to historic preservation.
- Steve announced the joint meeting of the Historical Society and Historical Commission will be on Thursday May 9 and include a slide show about the Commonwealth Museum at the Mass Archives in Dorchester.
- Steve announced a fundraiser at Five Guys restaurant on Tuesday May 21 from 3pm to 10pm where 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Historical Society.
- Steve announced that the time of the Historical Society meetings will change beginning in October. The building opens at 6:45 pm and the meeting begins at 7:15 pm.
- Marcia handed out a draft of the Historical Commission meetings beginning in September. She will research a location for the first meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

June 3, 2013 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Present:*, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen *Absent:*  
Joanne DiMambro, Paul Foley

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of May 7 and May 23 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$1.76 (after payment for Heritage Award and Civil War grant expenses) in the operating fund and \$1,626 in the donation account was approved.

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3. Web Site

- The following items will be added to the Historic Commission web page: OBG Master Preservation Plan, the 2012 OBG Inventory, and the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.
- Marcia will discuss adding the minutes to the web page with Erin Sinclair.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications.

5. Burial Ground

- Flags were added for Memorial Day. The stakes around hazardous gravestones have not been installed yet.

6. Tidd Gates

- Demolition of Cambridge Tire at 454 Main Street began on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Tidd gates are covered with concrete conduits to prevent damage. The tops were loose and are being stored at one of Mr. Saia's properties.

7. North School

- The members voted to appoint a subcommittee to address any North School issues over the summer. According to the Town Clerk, meetings must be posted and minutes taken on any decisions made by the group. Joan, Margaret and Marcia agreed to serve and report to the Commission in September.
- Marcia anticipates that the garages and the brick color will need to be discussed.

8. Woodland Road

- Marcia attended the May 10 consultation meeting called by the Mass Historical Commission (MHC) as a legal remedy to their finding that the Corridor Improvements project has an adverse effect on Woodland Road, a property listed on the State Register of Historic Places.
- Brona Simon, Executive Director of MHC, was quite clear that MHC's interest is how the project looks, not its functionality. MHC staff members are preservation planners, not traffic engineers or roadway designers.
- Marcia presented a letter regarding proposed enhancements to the Woodland Road project, including interpretive signage, site furniture, lighting and plantings. Members approved mailing the letter to MHC.

9. Fundraising – tax bills

- Steve reported on his research of a check off box on the quarterly real estate bills for contributions to historic preservation. He reported that the property tax bills already have 2 donation options. He noted that the town treasurer suggested utilizing the on-line payment option which would allow her to set up a donate button to the HC. Steve will check about the cost. Need to discuss at September meeting how we would promote this option, if there is no charge.

10. Old Business

- Two grant requests (historic marker/gravestone cleaning) were mailed to The Massachusetts Sesquicentennial Commission of the American Civil War before their May 17, 2013 deadline. If the grants are approved, our cost would be \$917.50 for the cleaning and \$237.50 for the historic marker. A balance of \$277.51 would remain in our Donation Account.
- Atty Valerani notified Marcia that he took his own photos of the faux chimneys on the Dow Building and forwarded to Verizon Wireless on May 31. He opined that a Verizon Wireless would need to access the roof and look at the gaps.

11. New Business

- Town Day is Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Possible table items: copy of Tidd and Gould historic markers, Historic Walk brochures, house marker applications, watch fobs & candy. Marcia will check on the loan of the Senior Center marker.
- Open House for OBG and Historical Society is Saturday October 26, which coincides with the Halloween event in the Square.
- New members-both Marcia and Joan approached two residents about joining the HC. No response yet.
- Next meeting is Monday September 9 in the Library.

The meeting ended at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

September 9, 2013 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen *Absent:* Paul Foley

*Guests:* Meghan Bezio, Gin Vilante

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of June 3 were approved.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$385 in our operating budget and \$2,891 in the donation account.
- Donation account opening balance = \$1,626 + a \$100 donation from Excelsior Realty for research assistance on 3 Morrison Ave and 193 Franklin Street + a grant from the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission for \$1,155 and a donation of \$ 5 (sale of watch fob) and \$5 in the donation jar at Town Day.

### 3. Warrant Article

- The restoration of 39 hazardous/unstable gravestones is estimated to cost between \$23,000 and \$26,800 in the Master Preservation Plan of 2012.
- According to the Messrs. Ragucci, Grover and Florino the Town's Cemetery Trust Fund principal earns about \$40,000 a year in interest. \$35,000 of that goes to Lindenwood embellishments leaving \$5,000 for the OBG as a 'safe' amount. Mr. Ragucci will not block our asking the Selectmen to support an additional \$5,000 given that the Cemetery Interest Trust Fund has a balance of \$97,894.
- Members voted to have Marcia make that request of the Selectmen. Mr. Rotondi suggested adding a statement to the motion that the Selectmen can designate unused funds to be returned to the Interest Trust Fund.

### 4. Web Site

- The following items have been added to the Historic Commission web page: 2013 Heritage Award, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for 8 years between 1887-1946, 1858 OBG transcription. 2012 inventory requires intervention from vendor who hosts the Lindenwood Cemetery inventory. No reply yet.

### 5. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications.

### 6. Burial Ground

- The stakes and yellow caution tape have been reinstalled around hazardous gravestones.
- Marcia will confirm the hours of the Halloween Walk on Saturday October 26.

### 7. Tidd Gates

- Demolition of Cambridge Tire at 454 Main Street began on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The delay over the summer is rumored to be because of contaminated soil. This past week the construction has started again with the installation of the foundation.
- Jim Cotter reported to Marcia that a number of his relatives who are related to William Tidd are interested in attending the dedication of the historic marker.

### 8. North School

- The first floor corridor walls have been blasted to remove paint from the original brick interior. The framing of the 12 units is done. One window has been installed. It looks good, although the trim work is not done. The contractor who specializes in historic masonry work has completed the window openings as the Commission specified and he is working on repointing the mortar as needed on all sides of the building.
- It is rumored that 5 of the 12 units have been sold.

9. Woodland Road

- There has been no consultation meeting called by the Mass Historical Commission (MHC) since the one on May 10.
- There has been no response to our June letter regarding proposed enhancements to the Woodland Road project, including interpretive signage, site furniture, lighting and plantings.
- An August 29 news article reports that a Superior Court judge ordered the state to stop moving forward with a \$2.2 million project to alter historic Woodland Road. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by the Friends of the Middlesex Fells and 10 private citizens.

10. Fundraising – tax bills

- Steve reported about an on-line payment option which would allow computer users to donate money to the HC through Unipay Gold. There is no annual fee or service charge. Based on a unanimous vote, Steve will ask the Town Treasurer to install this option. Need further discussion about publicity.

11. Civil War Grant

- In late June the Massachusetts Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission awarded \$1,155 to the Historical Commission for cleaning Col. Gould's gravestone and creating a historic marker. Our Donation Account will match this amount.
- The stone conservator is unable to begin the project in September as planned due to the illness of her husband.

12. First Congregational Church

- Meghan Bezio, EBI Consulting and Gin Vilante, AT&T reviewed the installation of 12 panel antennas inside the existing steeple of the 1840 First Congregational Church from plans dated 9/6/13. Gin showed us a sample of the solid fiberglass louvers.
- Outstanding questions: 1.) how will solid fiberglass louvers on three sides of the steeple impact the sound quality of the carillon and look compared to the existing individual louvers on the east side and 2.) how tall will the shrubs be to screen the newly installed equipment facing Central Street?

The meeting ended at 8:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

October 7, 2013 - Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Paul Foley, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

*Excused:* Joanne DiMambro

*Guests:* Maureen Buckley

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of September 9 were approved.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$355 in our operating budget (\$30 spent on copy of Tidd gatepost sign for Town Day) and \$2,157 in the donation account (\$734 spent on 40% downpayment on cleaning of Col. Gould gravestone).

### 3. OBG Open House – Oct 26

- Maureen Buckley, a fellow leader and two girl scouts will arrive around 1pm for the set-up and stay for the event. Joan will notify Bob Shannon, our Civil War re-enactor and provide Halloween candy, Margaret will notify the Superintendent's office and provide the plastic pumpkin. Steve will check with the Jennifer Welter about advertising, since the Halloween Walk is the Chamber's event. Marcia will bring OBG maps, inventories, watch fobs, house marker applications, walking tour brochures, new member notice.

### 4. Burial Ground

- Joan offered to post a notice on the Green and Richardson family forums regarding the OBG Open House and the need for funds to restore gravestones.
- Steve reported there are at least 200 OBG graves are listed on Find-A-Grave, which was recently acquired by Ancestry.com.
- Steve reported that Marian Towse inquired where she could find a copy of the Preservation Master Plan. Marcia noted that a bound copy is in the reference librarian's file cabinet and will soon be available on the Historical Commission web site.
- Steve shared an e-mail regarding his inquiry of Superintendent Cassius M. Cash of the Boston National Historical Park & Boston African National Historic Site. Superintendent Cash suggested two resources for a historical marker in memory of unknown slaves and native Americans who may have been buried in unmarked graves: Mass Humanities and Mass Cultural Council.

### 5. Warrant Article

- Marcia has been rescheduled to meet with the Selectmen to October 8 regarding their support for our request for \$10,000. These funds will restore an estimated 12-14 of the 39 hazardous/unstable gravestones identified in the Master Preservation Plan of 2012.

### 6. Web Site

- Nothing new but a request has been made to Erin Sinclair to add the OBG Preservation Master Plan.

### 7. Historic House Marker Program

- The Doyle family at 21 Cottage Street has applied for a house marker. Marcia noted that the house is on the 1875 Beers Atlas of Stoneham under the name of Qualters. The 1874 map in the Library shows the name of Porter.

### 8. Tidd Gates

- Marcia reported the walls of the new Cambridge Tire building are being erected.

### 9. North School

- Marcia reported at least 5 and possibly 7 condo units have been sold. No additional windows have been installed.

### 10. Woodland Road

- No new information to report since the Superior Court injunction halting DCR work announced on Aug 29.
11. Fundraising – tax bills
- No progress. Steve will contact the Town Treasurer to install the Unipay Gold option for the Historical Commission. Need further discussion about publicity.
12. Civil War Grant
- A 40% downpayment (\$734) was requested today for Barbara Mangum, stone conservator, to begin the cleaning and restoration of Col. Gould's gravestone. The contract will be rewritten for the Town Administrator to sign. Both DPW Deputy Director Larry Brophy and Lindenwood Superintendent Kevin Dockery are aware of the project.
  - Research continues on Col Gould's marker. Joe Keefe, an archivist at NARA in Waltham, is assisting.
  - Dow Block Chimney  
The gap in the Verizon faux chimney has been repaired. This item can be removed from the agenda.
13. First Congregational Church
- Sarah Gaulty, Architectural Historian at EBI Consulting, sent an email on September 30 outlining changes to the AT&T telecommunications installation in the First Church.
  - Existing louvers on all but the east side of the steeple will be replaced by individual slats rather than a solid fiberglass panel. This should alleviate our concerns about the sound projection and aesthetics.
  - Shrubs planted around the exterior generator will be at least 5' tall at the time of planting to hide the equipment.
  - Marcia is awaiting an answer to the storage shed question.
14. New Member
- A suggestion was made to write an article for the media.
15. New Business
- Need to explore the Cummings Foundation that recently gave \$100,000 to four Stoneham institutions. Is there a Stoneham resident on their Board?
  - Should we approach realtors about giving our historical marker to new homeowners?

The meeting ended at 8:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 4, 2013 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Paul Foley, Joan Quigley, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

*Excused:* Stephen Rotondi

*Guests:* Dolly Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of October 7 were approved.

### 2. Tri-Community Greenway

- Dolly Wilson spoke about the opportunity to erect three ‘transportation related’ signs abutting the Greenway. The signs are paid for as part of the Commonwealth’s funding of the Greenway. Three scenarios identified include the Stoneham Branch of the Boston and Lowell Railroad, the Shawmut Motor Car that won (by default) the 1909 Transcontinental Auto Race and the Eastern Mass Street Railway Company that ran trolleys to Sullivan Square from 1910 to 1946. Stoneham Car #4387 was ‘retired’ to the Kennebunkport Seashore Trolley Museum in 1946. Dolly will inquire about the cost of additional signs for retelling local history.
- Marcia will provide information of the Shawmut and Trolley Car #4387.

### 3. Treasurer’s Report

- Joan made the Treasurer’s report of \$355 in our operating budget and \$2,261 in the donation account (includes \$104 from OBG Open House Donation Jar).

### 4. Website

- Old Burying Ground Preservation Master Plan has been added to the website.
- No word yet on activating the OBG inventory in a format similar to the Lindenwood Cemetery inventory on the DPW webpage.

### 5. House Markers

- In addition to 21 Cottage St, the owner of 9 High Street mentioned at the OBG Open House that she might be interested in a marker. Her house is on the 1875 Beers Atlas.
- Pat Adams of 99 High Street spoke with Joanne and then Marcia about a marker for her house.

### 6. Burial Ground

- On October 8, the Board of Selectmen supported the Historical Commission request for \$10,000 to hire a stone conservator to begin the repair of 12-14 of the 39 hazardous/unstable gravestones identified in the Master Preservation Plan of 2012.
- At the October 21 Town Meeting an amendment was made to original motion by Marian Towse to take the \$10,000 from free cash rather from the Perpetual Care Interest Fund. She based her argument on the year 2000 Lindenwood Rules and Regulations that state: *In no case shall this [perpetual care} mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any gravestones, monumental structures or memorials of any kind or the reconstruction of any damaged gravestones, monuments or memorials.*
- Her amendment passed as did the original motion.
- Marcia spoke with the Town Accountant the next day and he has placed the \$10,000 in a special account which does not expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of any year.

### 7. Tidd Gates

- Marcia reported the walls of the new Cambridge Tire building are up but no roof has been added.

#### 8. North School

- Marcia reported all of the Harvey windows have been installed except in the second floor gym on the west side of the building. Five condos have been sold. Two units will be combined into one on the first floor and a deck will be added.
- The west side is being regraded. The sidewalk and stairs on the south side were removed.

#### 9. Woodland Road

- No new information to report since the Superior Court injunction halting DCR work announced on Aug 29.
- Margaret reported that the MWRA is planning an open meadow for passive recreation over the covered drinking water storage tank being built behind the now defunct Boston Regional Medical Center.

#### 10. Fundraising – tax bills

- No report. Steve absent.

#### 11. Civil War Grant

- Marcia showed a recent picture comparing the before and after condition of Col. Gould's gravestone in Lindenwood. Barbara Mangum, stone conservator, has applied the HCT treatment designed to form an insoluble white calcium salt within the pores of the stone which helps bind them together and resist acid rain. The treatment lasts for about 5 years.
- Barbara has begun the mortar work which needs to be covered to cure properly.
- Marcia noted an unconfirmed rumor that the Massachusetts Civil War Sesquicentennial has more money to distribute. Joan suggested inquiring if the Cummings Foundation would fund the required matching money.

#### 12. OBG Open House Review

- Visitor count was 82, down from 127 last year. The weather was cold and windy. Donations totaled \$104 as reported by Joan for the Treasurer's Report.
- The numbers on the east and west fences were designed to coincide with the map from the 2012 Master Plan. They only helped 2 people find the gravestones they were seeking. They are easy to put up next year since the layout is done.
- Plan to have DPW remove the leaves before next year's event for public safety.
- Consider another Open House in the spring.

#### 13. Congregation Church

- Marcia distributed a copy of the final "no adverse effect" letter regarding the changes to the AT&T telecommunications installation in the church steeple.

#### 14. New Business

##### • Weiss Farm Comment Period

- Marcia distributed two documents: a draft of a letter for the HC to consider sending to the appropriate authorities regarding "The Commons at Weiss Farm" and a collage of one of the 5 story proposed buildings and two other "Commons" properties (Saugus and Beverly) that fit better in their respective neighborhoods.
- There was insufficient time to discuss the topic completely. Another meeting will be posted before the November 12 Public Hearing following a presentation by the developer John M. Corcoran.

The meeting ended at 8:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary

**STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

November 12, 2013 - Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall Conference Room-second floor

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

*Excused:* Stephen Rotondi

*Absent:* Paul Foley

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to review, amend and approve our letter regarding the "Commons at Weiss Farm"

Marcia explained the addition of the of the two requests: a) for the Selectmen to ask Corcoran and Company to initiate an inclusive and participatory design process that will address citizen design concerns and b) for the Selectmen to appoint key stakeholders from the neighborhood and community at large to participate in such as design development process.

The members discussed the contents of our letter. The sentence referencing the Villa Grande condominiums was deleted.

The vote was 4-0 to accept the revised letter and have Marcia ask to be recognized to read it at the 7:00 PM Public Hearing.

The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen  
Secretary and Co-Chair

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

December 2 2013 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

*Absent:* Paul Foley

*Guests:* Joseph Cornish, Supervising Preservation Services Mgr, Historic New England;  
Donna M. Weiss

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

### 1. Stewardship Easement Programs

- Joseph Cornish described the use of preservation easements as a legal tool to preserve privately owned properties (exterior and interior but not bathrooms or kitchens), outbuildings, and significant tracts of land. The property owner donates an easement to Historic New England to protect in perpetuity a property's historically significant features from alteration, neglect and demolition.
- The process involves a free initial evaluation, an application with a \$500 fee, written documentation, two presentations to the Stewardship Committee, creation of the legal documents, and a one time donation by the property owner to the Stewardship Easement Fund.
- Historic New England staff members conduct annual site visits, assist the property owner with routine maintenance advice and review large renovation projects.
- Eligibility for a federal tax deduction is rare as the property owner must prove that the easement created loss of property value.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of November 4 and November 12 were accepted.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Joan made the Treasurer's report of \$355 in our operating budget and \$2,261 in the donation account.

### 4. Website

- No change to our website.

### 5. House Markers

- No new marker requests beyond 21 Cottage St. Marcia reported new on-line access to most of the South Middlesex County land records through familysearch.org. It seems somewhat clumsy but saves a trip to Cambridge.

### 6. Burial Ground

- Marcia will meet with Town Administrator Ragucci to discuss the best strategy for acquiring bid proposals on the gravestone work to be done in the OBG .

### 7. Tidd Gates

- Joan noticed on November 19 that the gates were no longer covered. Subsequently the portable fence was repositioned to protect the gates. The sidewalk has been renovated, the roof is on.

### 8. North School

- All the windows are in place and the utility work is done in the street.

### 9. Woodland Road

- No new information. Remove from agenda until further updates.

### 10. Fundraising – tax bills

- Steve will contact Town Treasurer to set up the donation button. Once it's working, we need to discuss promotion on the website with Erin Sinclair.

### 11. Civil War Grant

- Marcia reported that the work on Col. Gould's gravestone looks complete but there is no before/after documentation or an invoice from the stone conservator.
- Steve reported that Bob Shannon would be interested in participating in the dedication of Col. Gould's historic marker.
- Steve will speak with Ralph Barile about signing off on a granite marker.

12. Weiss Farm Comment Period

- Marcia noted that Attorney Witten expects all letters to the Selectmen by December 9 in order for him to prepare a letter to MassHousing for them by their meeting of Dec 16.

The meeting ended at 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary