



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes January 11, 2023

Commission Members Present: Jan Prentice, Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani, Alan Earls, Scott Mason, Randy LaRosa, Mary Olsson. Associate Member Will Lee.
Archivist Rowan Lowell

Minutes of the 12/14/22 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

DEMOLITION REQUEST: A hearing for approval of the demolition of the building at 803 Washington Street, submitted by Paator Macharashuili was unanimously approved by the commission.

PRESENTATIONS: Scott Nolan, President of the Franklin Library Association spoke to us about the FLA dissolving after 150 years in existence. FLA will be turning over the copywrite of the book written by Eamon and Alan Earls on the history of the FLA to the Historical Commission. 25 copies will be donated to the FHM. (To be sold in the gift shop?) There will be a reception held at the library on January 17th.

FFHM Report: No member present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TREASURER: We spent \$225 in the past month, \$200 for Digital Commonwealth and \$25.00 for Christmas decorations for the Senior Center Tree.
- ARCHIVIST update: Rowan Lowell introduced herself to the commission saying she is looking forward to working with everyone. She is still getting familiar with what we have and where things are.
- Second Sunday Speaker Series: We had a good crowd for Joe Landry's Train talk which coincided with Scott Mason's Train Town exhibit. February's speaker will be Professor Rob Lawson of Dean College. March presentation is on the Union Street Cemetery.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Upcoming exhibits: Nothing planned at this time. An exhibit committee will be put into place again.
- Bell at Old South Meeting House: The building has been sold to Habitat for Humanity and the town will get the bell. Not sure where it should be best displayed.

- Demolition Delay Bylaw review, on the schedule for the town. Check with town council and Mark Cerel as to timing.
- Local Historic Districts: There is a presentation scheduled with the town council next week put together by Vicki Earls. We need to follow up to see what can be done about establishing local districts, which have more impact than the state and national historic districts. We need to organize the list of vintage houses, research them and come up with information on each if possible.
- Designating Docents: The idea was discussed with no decision at this time.
- FFHM wish list: The friends need the list in time for the 2/19 meeting. Mary to finalize the list and get it to Paula in advance of the meeting.
- Silent Saturdays: Alan proposed and will be presenting 2 silent movies over the two weekends of February school vacation. Two Harold Lloyd silent film comedies 2/18 Safety Last and 2/25 The Freshman. Admission is Free and movies will start at 11

NEW BUSINESS:

- Exhibit Committee – Rowan said Jamie would like to get this started again with members of the commission and the friends discussing, scheduling and working on exhibits. The committee would be headed by Rowan.
- Boston Cane – Town Clerk Nancy Danello has removed the Cane from its case and will be presenting it to our new oldest citizen in the near future. Details to follow.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Jan would like to work on an exhibit on Dean College for Dean's Parent's weekend and graduation weekend. Also mentioned that the Sunshine Club would like to visit again in the Spring.
- Alan said Harry Schreffler, a neighbor, has some Scouting memorabilia, he will contact him to see if he might be interested in donating. He also was contacted regarding some Dacey Dairy Farm items. Alan said he could outline what a docent definition and duties might be. Suggested we have a museum guide made up. Viewing cameras to be installed in strategic areas, outside Jim Johnson room, outside the gift shop.
- Scott thanked everyone for their help and support with his Train Town exhibit. It has been very popular since it opened.
- Will suggested we come up with some type of photo op attraction that would draw people to the museum. More to follow

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM