



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes August 9, 2023

Commission Members Present: Jan Prentice, Alan Earls, Paul Pisani, Mary Olsson

Not present: Scott Mason, Randy LaRosa, Phyllis Malcolm

Associate Member: Kai Olsson

Rowan Lowell – Archivist

Minutes of the July 12, 2023 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: No members present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TREASURER: Phyllis not in attendance
- ARCHIVIST Update: Rowan Lowell – The basement is being condensed. Clearing space for metal shelving so she can organize better. RE the de-accession policy – we will review all items at once. RE Kitchen – taking out the stove will involve opening up a wall. There is talk of keeping it open to use as a reception area.
- Second Sunday Speaker Series: Alan Earls presents August 13th, Massachusetts, the Library State. September: Professor Rob Lawson on the history of Dean and the Universalist Church.
- Exhibit Committee: Jamie Hellen wants to meet with the committee to set ground work and expectations. Date TBD.
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OLD BUSINESS:

- Local historic districts – we will address this once we have home research done
- Master Plan – on hold
- Demolition Delay Update – what changes do we want to make? Take out the verbiage about the town being able to demo town owned property without proper review. Add Rolling date of 75 years. Give the Commission the opportunity to determine if a home is historically significant. If so, a demo delay hearing, if not, proceed with permit.
- Charles Partridge Adams Art donation update: Mary to follow up with Connirae Andreas whose husband documented the work of Adams, a painter born in Franklin.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Harvest Festival plans: Jamie Barret will perform on the porch. We will provide free popcorn again. Decorations and details to be discussed at next meeting.
- Recent donation from the Ober family, a large sign from when pony rides were offered at the Union Street/West Central Street property. Mary would like to have the sign permanently displayed. Rowan feels the sign may be too big to hang. The sign has been put in the basement for the time being. We will need to discuss options with facilities.
- September 6, at 4:00pm was the date decided on to take down, pack up and store the 4 bridal gowns that have been on display since June.
- Rowan is reviewing the deaccession policy and compare it to what other small museums are doing and will give us an update.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Alan: October is Archaeology month. Saturday October 14 there is a scheduled walk in the state forest. Sunday October 15th is a special presentation from Mass Archaeology Society at the museum.

Brad Chaffee is tearing down 88 East Central Street. He will set up a time for a walk through of the home for any commission members who are interested.

Jan: Dean's homecoming weekend is in October and she will be working with the Archivist at Dean to expand the display at the museum.

Don Cluff Art prints

The Fire Department had come by to turn off the faulty alarm in the building and said fire doors need to be closed at all times. Hosts should be sure all fire doors are shut when locking up the building.

The Hopedale Historical Commission came in to tour the museum while Jan was hosting recently.

Paul – is there a file of homes taken down in Franklin? There should be records of any homes that have come before the commission for a demo delay hearing

Mary – Almont Green has offered to do a scanning party for us, would the commission be interested in doing that? YES.

Mary to look into the price of a new sign from Cam for the front/outdoor case.

Asked that everyone please sign the volunteer hours log and comment log (may need a new book)

The annual report for the commission is due by the end of the month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08