



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes May 10, 2023

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: New item in the gift shop, reusable sponge decorated with strawberries, for the Strawberry Stroll. They are being sold 2/\$18.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TREASURER: Town has asked for itemized receipts from Scott Mason to be able to have the commission reimburse him for partial expenses for the Franklin Train exhibit.
- ARCHIVIST update:
- Second Sunday Speaker Series Mary will do a presentation on Horace Mann in May. Ingrid Grenon is slated for June speaking on the history of the Wrentham State School. July TBD. Scott asked if we can schedule December SSSS to coincide with the next Franklin Train exhibit, he will do a presentation of model railroads.
- CPC Update – the committee is not meeting during the summer
- Exhibit Committee: Next meeting is scheduled for later this month. Will move forward with pipe organ exhibit idea.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Dean Commencement Weekend – unfortunately not well attended. Our open times coincided with the timing of commencement. Jan and Rowan put together a nice exhibit.
- Ladybug Trail Spring Walk scheduled for 4/15/23. We will be giving out trail maps and ladybug stickers to kids who visit the museum.
- Silent Saturdays: On hold for now but will consider doing something with Friday night in the Fall. Possibly do vouchers with a restaurant for ‘dinner and a movie’.

- Strawberry Stroll Planning: Friday June 9th, Open special hours on Friday night 4-8pm with a rain date of Saturday June 10th, same hours. Live music on the porch provided by Greenwich Bay Brass Band, freshly popped popcorn Free. Asking all members who can attend to help cover the special hours.
- Local Historic Districts: Mary to print and submit letter to Jamie, approved and agreed upon by the commission regarding creating a study committee.
- Master Plan: Mary to print and submit letter to Jamie, approved and agreed upon by the commission regarding involving historical preservation concerns more fully in the town's planning.
- Docent Idea: We will revisit again in September
- Archeology Month: Aland has been speaking with the Public Archeology Laboratory who had done a study on the expansion of the high tension wires here in town. They are willing to come and share their findings at a presentation later this year.
- Collaboration with School Administration: Nothing new, we don't expect to hear from them until the start of the '23/'24 school year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Carriage House at St. Mary's – should we get involved with trying to save it? We should find out what the feeling is in the neighborhood. See additional notes under commissioner's comments.
- Demolition By-Law – Do we propose to change the 1940 time line to a rolling 70 years? Should we approve a demolition when there is no plan in place except to tear down a structure? To be discussed further.
- Bryant College course on 'Towns with Growth', no additional information provided.
- Legacy Tree – Paperwork has gone through and the Oak Tree at the old Hayward property is now established as a Massachusetts Legacy Tree.
- Thursday Nights: We agreed not to increase hours at this time.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Alan suggested he would write and publish an article on saving the turntable rather than saving the carriage house itself (on St. Mary's property, currently under 1-year delay) It was suggested he contacted car collector groups and the Heritage Museum in Barnstable. Also suggested he could do a presentation on the Hayward Mansion, the gardens and the carriage house to generate awareness.
- Randy contacted Byer Piano Service who estimate it would cost \$250 for lost motion adjustment, extra tuning, string replacement in the Trowbridge Piano.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM