



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes August 10, 2022

Commission Members Present: Mary Olsson, Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani

Associate Members: Jan Prentice, Kai Olsson

Guest: Scott Mason

Minutes of the July 13, 2022 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: Jan Prentice and Scott Mason were both nominated and unanimously voted in as full voting members of the Commission. Both will be appointed at the August 17 Town Council Meeting and will need to be sworn in.

William Lee has expressed interest in joining the commission through a volunteer application. He was not present at the meeting. We are hopefully vote on accepting him as an associate member at the next meeting.

PRESENTATIONS: Paul showed us how the video tablet will work for the Clara Johnston Federal Parlor Room

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: Nothing new

Previously at a special 8/3/22 meeting the commission approved a demo request for 121 Grove St

FFHM Report: No members present, but Paula sent word that a new item will be available in the gift shop, scarves with a ladybug design, \$16.00. The Friends are investing \$2000 in advertising with a flyer in the monthly paper. Hoping to attract more people to the museum with a drawing for a prize.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TREASURER: No update
- ARCHIVIST: The application deadline was extended until Friday August 5th. Interviews are being scheduled for mid-September
- SSSS:
 - August Wolfgang Bauer, Firestorm - a childhood in the ruins of war
 - September: Maureen Taylor the Photo Detective
 - October: Ted Reinstein
 - Future Suggestions: The History of Camp Haiastan; History of Wrentham State School

OLD BUSINESS:

BPL Scanning, Kai met with the representative who returned the original Sentinel newspapers. Alan will find out how to access the scanned and digitized copies. Additional scanning to be done when funding available again through Digital Commonwealth.

Paul is all set to install the tablet which will play Jim Johnston's narration of the Clara Johnston Federal Parlor. It is to be mounted to the left of the door. It will run for 45 hours on a full charge. And will run a continuous loop. Paul will provide instructions for use and how to recharge.

Mary asked for members to stay after the meeting to help move new donations downstairs to the accession table that have been accumulating in the library.

Future exhibit ideas: Postcards – Mary to plan
Basil LeBlanc woodcarving exhibit – Jan to follow up with Dale Lippett
History of Dean – contact Prof. Rob Lawson
Model railroad exhibit for December – Scott and Alan to coordinate. Jan said she would help with the research needed on buildings /scenery in old Franklin
Ask florists for holiday arrangements in December

Thursday Movie Nights – Idea on hold until the Spring

Flowers for front of Museum: Once drought is over, we can install Mums in time for October 1st. Phyllis suggested participating in the Downtown Partnership Beautification Days again, 2x a year and have FDP bill the Friends. Discuss with Friends and FDP.

Printers and Scanners: Thanks to Paul for working with Anthony in IT to get this done. 2 computers were updated, one printer replaced, a second printer to be replaced. Printer instructions can be found online. Find and print.

NEW BUSINESS:

Harvest Festival Planning: It was agreed to have an old-fashioned popcorn machine and give away popcorn. Paul to see about renting the machine. Phyllis to check on requirements from the Board of Health. We will also have balloon artist BoBo the Clown. FDP offered to pick up the \$150 tab for the day. We discussed a scarecrow contest, but settled on a pumpkin carving contest instead this year. Mary and Phyllis to work out details and prizes. Phyllis suggested having a person dressed as Ben Franklin, more to follow on that. Mary to provide info to FDP for Harvest Festival Newsletter.

It was decided we would also participate in the Cultural Council Festival September 10th

Scott to provide 10x10 pop up tent and 3 tables

Alan to ask Rachel (?) if she would be interested in doing her spinning wheel exhibit

Mary to have pamphlets reprinted at Allegra and post cards printed through Vista Print

Kai suggested giving away the Entering Franklin magnets or a new design with the museum logo on it.

Mary suggested asking Rob Lawson if Dean students would be interested in dressing up in period clothing or as historical figures.

Two \$100 checks were presented for deposit

From St. Mary's Parish Women's club in memory of Clara Johnston

From John & Laurie Thacker, visitors from Utica KY

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Mary shared the sad news that Debbie Pellegri's sister, Marsha Simmler recently passed. Mary will send a card from the Commission.

Phyllis said the Plainville Historic Commission plans to have a speaker talking about Native American History and King Phillips War., date TBD. As the discussion progressed it was suggested we separate the Red Men items away from the Native American artifact exhibit.

Mary got in touch with Mass Archaeological Society in Middleboro. We can take our donated artifacts to them for authentication. Paul has been given the details and will follow up.

The State Ethics Commission is hosting free seminars on the Conflict-of-Interest Law every other month. Anyone who is interested will receive additional details.

The Annual Report was recently submitted.

Jan will find out when Dean College Parents weekend is scheduled.

Alan said the Milford Historical Museum seems to have an enthusiastic volunteer group. They're open once a week on Thursday afternoons. Worth following up with them to inquire about their program.

Hosting schedule is set through mid-September with the exception of Sunday August 28th. Phyllis to confirm if she can host.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM