



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes October 19, 2022

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

Minutes of the September 14, 2022 meeting were accepted as amended with 2 corrections.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS:

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS:

FFHM Report: No member present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TREASURER: \$1,171.80 spent; \$2,828.20 remaining balance. \$2,499.01 Gift Fund balance.
- ARCHIVIST update: The town administrator is waiting for references and background checks before announcing a replacement archivist.
- Second Sunday Speaker Series: Ted Reinstein was the guest speaker, there was a fairly low turnout.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Harvest Festival wasn't as busy as previous year. Probably due to the weather. It was suggested we set up a table on Main Street next year directing people to the museum. Coverage needs to be scheduled better. Randy suggested live music for the next festival.
- Upcoming Exhibits: Scott is making good progress with the train station exhibit. Jan suggested getting in touch with Mike Healy. Scott needs trees made for the exhibit, Mary volunteered to make them. Scott is looking for info on relevant events in Franklin in 1932 (year of the display) to provide a sense of what was going on in town at the time. Scott asked that the perimeter somehow be protected, Mary suggested stations. It will measure approx. 8ft x 3ft. A van would be needed to move it to the museum.
- BPL Scanning: Digital Commonwealth is looking at next year to scan the remainder of the newspaper. They are waiting for the funding.

- JJ Room Media: Paul is working on an instruction manual. Lights in 2nd room should be checked, the track lighting may need to be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Lombardi had talked to Mary about the bell at the old museum being saved and moved to the new museum before the building is sold. Paul suggested he could go down and take photos. Will the town planners come up with a preservation proposal? Should the commission be involved. Will both the windows and front of the building be visually preserved? Habitat for Humanity is in the running to purchase the building. Scott to get in touch with Lou Alavatto for advice on how to frame a preservation request.
- A motion was made and approved by all to accept the following request to the town planners:
 - The historical commission requests that an evaluation be made of the historical character and structure of the Old South Meeting House so that those characteristics can be captured in language appropriate to defining preservation requirements as the structure moves into private ownership.
- Before addressing the demolition delay bylaw, Mary will speak with town lawyer Mark Surrall about the proper procedure to follow.
- Dean College History Reception is scheduled for Tuesday December 6th.
- FCDC: ARTWALK is scheduled for June. More to follow
- Commission Christmas Party will be at the Olssons Sunday December 18.
- November meeting will be held via Zoom as Mary will be out of town. It was suggested to hold all winter meetings via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Alan shared information on Establishing Local Historic Districts published by the Massachusetts Historical Commission He's concerned that the historic districts designated in town may not be officially recognized. He'd like to look into officially establishing a historic district in town that is recognized by the state. Alan also shared a schedule of virtual workshops for local communities regarding establishing local historic districts hosted by MHC.
- Jan: The Sunshine Club from the Senior Center visited the museum last Friday, hosted by Alan and Jan. They'd love to set a date for another visit.
- Randy hosted a Cub Scout group. The typewriter was the most popular item. Suggested we have a working typewriter and dial telephone as once daily items that young people are not familiar with. He also suggested his group, the Greenwich Bay Group is willing to perform for the Strawberry Stroll next year.
- Alan members of the Hopedale Historical Museum visited on Saturday.
 - Suggested we have the Chilson films uploaded to our website.
 - He provided a program from the installation of the new Chancellor and new President at Dean College earlier this month.
 - He heard to Town Clerk's office is cleaning out their vault, suggested we get to see anything they decide not to keep. Mary to contact Nancy.
- Scott stated that building plans are not kept on file. Are they digitized? Are they stored at the DPW? We should solicit any historical records from local organizations.

- Paul suggested we lock the front entrance door to the basement to ensure no one enters that area. It could pose a problem if someone is either upstairs or in the basement and we are unaware when we leave and lock up. Suggested a wireless doorbell for the front door.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.