

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2016, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy.

Absent: Colette Ferguson, Richard Remillard.

Associates Present: Kai Olsson

Visiting: Warren Revell

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - approved as amended.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - TBD whether Remy Remillard has been approved by the Town Council yet.

D. PRESENTATIONS

Carolyn Zern of Wood Partners, Inc. and Thomas Miner of Hawk Design presented plans for the landscaping component of the project (tentatively named Weston Woods) to build 280 apartments that is slated for 1342 West Central St. In the corner of this lot is the former Wales house, built in 1720, that will be demolished but commemorated as part of the construction project. ACME is selling the property to Wood Partners. The closing is scheduled for June, 2016, and demolition soon thereafter.

Thom Miner presented two options:

A — To bring the grade at the house site down to the level of the surrounding landscape. This would address Gus Brown's concern for safety and motorists' visibility at that corner.

B — To leave the foundation of the house intact at its current height, some 3' above the surrounding landscape.

Discussion ensued about various ways to commemorate the structure and footprint of the house. Tom Miner suggested the option of providing a partial (2 walls) footprint of the original structure that is flush with the ground (as part of Option A). We discussed various options for including the house's large granite sills as part of this footprint.

The Commission requested a walk through of the house to verify that it no longer contained any objects or building materials of historical value. (This has become the Commission's new de facto standard requirement for condemned houses.)

E. EVENT AND DISPLAY SCHEDULE

The Town's Birthday celebration at the Museum on Sunday was extremely well attended.

For Kid's Vacation Week in April, we're planning to be open three days: Tues. thru Thurs., 11 to 2. Bob suggested some kind of programming to engage student involvement, including showing Liberty's Kids videos, and having them guess the age of an old US flag and campaign poster. Bob will send a description of these items to Mary for publicity in the Franklin and Milford papers.

Sun., May 1st — we'll celebrate Horace Mann Day. Mary would like to display a picture of what the Horace Mann statue across the street will look like. We discussed obtaining a DVD copy of last year's talk by Horace Mann expert Peter Golden to keep at the Museum.

July - a motion to have the Fiddling Thomsons perform at the Museum passed 4-0.

F. FRIENDS' GROUP - visitor Warren Revell of the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum had asked earlier what the Museum's policy on displaying donated objects was. Bob will send him a detailed response.

G. DISCUSSION/VOTE - None.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Project (Bob) - Nothing new.
A number of items were donated through Phyllis by Bernie Mellaney, former Franklin Building Inspector. These were rescued from the Clark/Newell House at 221 Old Grove St. as it was being demolished last year.
2. Summer Intern and Budget (Mary) - We discussed funding a summer intern to help us catalog donated items in PastPerfect, perhaps as a "one month opportunity with a chance for more." This would allow us to have someone begin work, pending approval of next fiscal year's budget from which we could extend the internship through the summer. This would entail 20 hours/wk for 4 weeks in June. They would receive a W2 Form.
3. Genealogy Club at the Museum (Mary) - While the Library is undergoing reconstruction, Vicki Buchanio is looking for a place to hold meetings, the last Thurs. of each month. Motion to allow Vicki's group to meet at the Museum: Passed 4-0.
4. Digitized Documents (Bob) - Bob will set up a meeting to coordinate with Library folks about dovetailing our efforts in this area.
5. Almont Studios of Medway (Mary) - Owner Almont Green is proposing to have an event at his studio, to showcase his methods of displaying sequences of (in our case, historical) photographs. The Commission would supply the snacks for such an event. It would otherwise be free of charge.
6. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - The Commission currently has \$3494.24 in its budget. We would like to improve the stock in the Museum Shop. We discussed carrying mugs of some kind, perhaps from www.4imprint.com. Any items proposed for sale in the Museum must be approved for sale there by the Commission.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Brick School Enhancements (Colette) - Not in attendance tonight.
2. Native American Corner (Mary, Colette, Bob) - Nothing new.
3. Making Horace Mann writings available in the Museum Shop (Mary, all) - Mary is researching what titles we could offer.
4. Process for Incoming Accessioned Items (Bob) - To be provided.
5. Commissioner and Volunteers "things to do list" (Bob) - To be provided.

J. NEW BUSINESS (ask members) - None.

K. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

1. We discussed entering a team in the Annual Trivia Bee at the Horace Mann School. This would enhance our visibility, and show people how smart, cool, and fun we are.
2. Brick School Enhancements (Colette) - Not in attendance tonight.
3. The FHS Class of 1971 will gather at the Museum on Fri., 9/23 from 7-9PM. Phyllis will open for them.

L. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - None.

M. ADJOURN - Voted 4-0 to adjourn.