

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2015

Commissioners Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini, Bob Percy.

Absent: None.

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from June 9th, approved as amended (6-0).

B. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None.

C. **APPOINTMENTS** — None.

D. **PRESENTATIONS** — None.

E. **DISCUSSIONS/VOTES**

1. Siding for museum building: the residing will take place soon. Work to be done by the Town.
2. Wedding dress display: We agreed on a takedown date of August 29th and 30th. This prompted a policy question: do we want to include dresses that do not have a Franklin connection? Mary felt they should have a Franklin connection. This would mean that in the future we would only accession dresses that have a Franklin connection. We also discussed having a narrower theme, such as dresses from a specific decade, or specifically mother/daughter pairs of dresses.
3. Old South Franklin Meeting House - We would like Jeff Nutting to attend our next meeting to discuss this. We brainstormed about some possible future uses for this venue:
 - writing workshops
 - music performance venue
 - military museum
 - an art gallery (supported by the Franklin Arts Council)
 - an industrial museum
 - church history museum
 - weddings
 - Stanley Chilson museum
 - a multi-use venue for local cultural organizations
 - specialty groups
 - local theatre productions

F. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Franklin Arts Festival - (July 25th - Aug. 2nd) - We agreed to target one day to participate: Sunday August 2nd. Activities/demonstrations we'll offer: rug braiding (by Phyllis), wool spinning (Nancy Zazza), straw braiding (no one yet). Activities can take place on the front porch.
2. PastPerfect (Bob) - Bob has been working with John Campbell on clearing the accessions backlog and adding to the database. The Commission agreed to allow PastPerfect users to enter all items in each basement cabinet, one at a time.
3. Adding 78 RPM records to PastPerfect - An open question - what requirements does PP have when entering old audio recordings? Knowing this will help Phyllis and Mary know how to construct their Excel spreadsheet of our audio recordings. One possibility is not to create an Excel spreadsheet at all - simply enter them directly into PP.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bob P. plans to meet with Bob Oliver to discuss the Stanley Chilson film project Bob O. is working on.
2. Franklin History Timeline - Bob P. and Mary O. will file this so it is available to teachers.
3. Museum Trek - Nothing new.
4. Vendor for Veteran's Framed picture display mechanism (Colette) - no response yet from the vendor (Donnegan Systems, Inc. of Northboro).
5. Long range: consultant for textile preservation - There's a course for this at URI. Perhaps students there could restore a dress for us as part of their learning. We also discussed having Mary O. post an ad calling for anyone with a background in textile restoration to assist us.
6. Fundraising - An idea: to sell historic house plaques. Owners would do the research, then go to the assessor's office for data about their house.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bob contacted someone at the Boston Public Library who works with the archive.org project to digitize documents of all kinds. The service is free as long as we make the digitized version available to the public. The Commission expressed an interest in doing this and suggested starting with the 1905 Business Directory.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The current balance is roughly the same as last month (\$7,088).

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ficco's Bowling Alley is closing and the owners would like to donate some moments to us. We might like a sign of some kind. A gentleman at 386 Prospect St. has the flagpole. Debbie is investigating to see what is available.

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – None.

L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 6-0.