

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2016, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy, Richard Remillard.

Absent: None

Associates Present: Kai Olsson

Visiting: Debbie Pellegrini

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - From the meetings on Mar. 8th and Mar. 29th, 2016. Approved as amended.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. PRESENTATIONS - Almont Green and Mark Wilcox and the Digital Gallery

They brought a monitor and a series of old pictures from Medway, as a way to feature their digital photography. They are working with the Medway Historical Society on ways to display their historic photographs. Visitors at their combined events have requested prints. They have typically split the proceeds.

The “folders” of pictures can be navigated by visitors, and lend themselves to inspection as a set, as opposed to web searches which are more pinpoint in scope. Pushing the button changes folders. The screen can support zooming.

They use 9600dpi when scanning. They offer 3-D imaging.

One scenario - we buy a monitor and (\$3K) and printer (\$??) and can print out pictures for people to buy in real time.

Another scenario - we buy only the monitor, then order prints through Almont Green.

They are receptive to our suggestions and needs.

E. EVENT AND DISPLAY SCHEDULE

No visitors in the Museum for the first day of Kids' Week (4/19).

May 1st - Horace Mann celebration.

June - Possible visit by the FHS Class of 1966.

June 9th - Strawberry Stroll. Museum to be open at 4PM. We'll serve some kind of refreshments.

Mary would like to continue the Item of the Month, after Susan Elliot completes her series of them. It doesn't have to be an elaborate display.

July - Cultural District Festival. The Friends (FFHM) are hosting. Suggestion was to serve simple finger food: hotdogs and Hoodsies.

F. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM)

An Appraisal Day was suggested for September. Debbie will contact Nancy Wyman for her availability. A Sunday afternoon would be ideal.

There is currently \$6700. in the Friends' account.

Phyllis submitted receipts to Debbie for the Town Birthday celebration.

Debbie provided copies of a fundraising letter the Friends had sent out in January.

Mary would like to purchase multiple copies of Horace Mann teaching books, and agreed to start off with 10 for the Museum Shop. Cost is \$4.78 apiece. Mary also brought in a sample paper weight that could bear the image of Horace Mann. Cost would be roughly \$13. apiece.

G. DISCUSSION/VOTE

Scanning and digitizing of the Franklin Registers (by the Northeast Document Conservation Center). The Friends of the Franklin Library is paying for this project. A motion to allow them to borrow the three volumes of the Registers was approved, 6-0.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Project (Bob) - Bob plans to spend two hours each Thurs evening recording inventory in PastPerfect.
2. Summer Intern and Budget (Mary) - The Finance Committee is addressing our request for a budget increase to fund the work of a part-time (less than 20 hrs/wk) summer intern. Meeting will be Apr. 28th at 7PM. If it moves forward, Mary will contact Simmons College and NEMA to make our needs known to them.
3. Digitized Documents (Bob) - Bob has been in touch with Alan E. about this project.
4. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - The Historical Commission currently has \$2900. in its account.
5. Miniature Medals Display, works by Robert Megerdichian (Mary) - Robert M. and his father Abraham would like to present a display of their metal work, possibly only for one day, possible in October or November. Robert is well versed in Armenian history and would be willing to include that in his talk. Mary will try to determine what date would be best for them, so we can vote on it at a subsequent meeting.
6. Photo Frames (Mary) - Many pictures that hung on the East Wall of the main display floor need reframing. Jane's Frames may be able to help.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Enhancements to Brick School Displays (Colette) - Cindy has many old pictures of the school. An electronic picture frame might be the best way to display them. Walmart might carry them.
2. Native American Corner - Bob will send out proposed wording for the signage for that area. Colette may investigate creating male and female Native American garb for display, as worn by local inhabitants of the 1600s or before.
3. Museum Shop, Horace Mann Books (Mary, All) - Mary suggested that we sell the book "Until Victory," by Mary Mann. Barnes and Noble republishes books. We need to find out whether/how we can too.
4. Almont Studios of Medway - see PRESENTATIONS.
5. Process for Incoming Accessioned Items (Bob) - Nothing new.

J. NEW BUSINESS (ask members)

Library's Genealogy Club - they don't meet in July or August. They would like to meet in the Museum in May and June (last Thurs. of each month).

We discussed having a "Roundtable Discussion": a gathering of local historical commissions.

K. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - None

L. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - None.

M. ADJOURN - Voted 6-0 to adjourn.