

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2016, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Jeremy Ball, Colette Ferguson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy, Richard Remillard

Absent: Connie Lawson

Associates Present: Kai Olsson

Visiting: Alison Anderson, Nicole Nietzel, Debbie Pellegrini, Paul Pisani

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - From the meeting on June 14, 2016.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - Del isn't listed as an associate member of the Commission. Mary will ask him.

C. APPOINTMENTS - Jeremy's membership is final. Congratulations!

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. Alison Anderson - summer intern: textiles. Introduced herself, mentioned that she has written a short user's guide for PastPerfect to be kept with the computer downstairs.
2. Nicole presented two documents about the care of museum objects.

E. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM) -

- Someone has generously donated the food for the upcoming Fiddling Thompsons event (Keefe Insurance, \$600.). Mary has submitted advertising to the regular outlets; Nicole will add it to Instagram and Facebook. An application was sent to the Board of Health for cooking outside at the event.
- FFHM account: \$7781.
- Brief discussion about which expenses are covered by the Commission and which are covered by the FFHM:
 - *FFHM pays for:* fund raisers, the historical calendar, reimbursements to people who purchase items to be accessioned such as books online, and any other items that the Commission deems to be of historical value to the Museum.
 - *Commission pays for:* operating expenses, Library Room ladder, humidity monitor, archival boxes and materials.
 - Alison suggested that we include these funding guidelines in the Museum's official Accession Policy.
 - Alison suggested having a separate budget item for accessions (FFHM or Commission budget item?)
- Alison suggested targeting the FFHM fund drive to specific 'wish list' items. This wish list would be "owned" by the FFHM. Could FFHM post this to the web somewhere?

F. DISCUSSION/VOTE - nothing today

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Project - Alison finished a draft of a PastPerfect user's guide. Alison asked if we had a loan policy. We do not. Loans would be reflected in PastPerfect as having a 'Temporary Location'. This would include veterans' pictures placed in other buildings around town.
2. Digitized Documents (Bob) - Nothing new.
3. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - We underspent last year's budget (\$3500. vs. \$4000.)
4. Curation, Organization (Nicole, Bob). Nicole has:
 - Gotten things off the floor

- Grouped items by type into boxes (materials for museum, items suggested for deaccessioning, items of interest to other towns but not central to our mission)
- Been pressing flat any “rolled” pictures she comes across
- She and a volunteer intern have been working on the postcard collection
- Suggested replacing hanging folders with document boxes. (This would prevent warping.)
- Plans to scan all postcards in our collection. We need more postcard sleeves: this is on Nicole’s wish list.

Other general discussion:

- Mary and Nicole will submit a work order on the town’s DPW website for the items they can look into (moisture, flies, holes in wall)
- Jeremy agreed to take recyclables to the town transfer station. Jeremy will also find a home for the milk crates.
- Colette will donate the large roll of kraft paper to a preschool.
- Someone will give the unclaimed laptop bag to someone in the town’s IT department.
- Do we have a deaccession policy? There are a couple of dresses that are so soiled and brittle that they are not salvageable (due to cost and fragility, not because of a lack of historical importance).
- Nicole suggested advertising the fact that the Museum has a microfilm reader, so that people will use this resource.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Museum Calendar for 2017 - Phyllis and Mary have finished gathering pictures.
2. Brick School Room Enhancements - Nothing new.
3. Signage for Native American Corner (Colette, Bob) - Nicole mentioned that the Nat’l Park Service has signage standards and can help us decide.
4. Museum Shop, Horace Mann Books (Mary, All):
 - Mary has invoices for books by and about Horace Mann. FFHM has agreed to pay for them. Mary has been adding mylar covers to them.
 - Jeremy suggested we look into getting books by and about William Makepeace Thayer, a Franklin born author of books for young people.
 - Nicole mentioned having bookmarks and magnets of some nice photographs available for sale.
5. Almont Studios of Medway - Upcoming event on Sunday, August 28th, from 3PM to 7PM. We need to scan some photos for that event. Paul Pisani expressed an interest in helping to scan photos in general and for this event.

I. NEW BUSINESS (ask members)

1. Gathering with Surrounding Historical Commissions (Sun., 8/7). To have light refreshments, soft beverages, coffee, bottled water, 1/4 sheet cake to have ‘Welcome’ and towns’ names on it.
2. Large number of curation items to discuss and decide (see above).

J. COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

1. Franklin TV is erecting a radio tower on Forge Hill and is looking for our approval. This item to be placed on next month’s meeting agenda.
2. Town Report section on the Historical Commission is due 8/17. Bob and Mary will work on it.
3. NEMA Annual Excellence Awards.
4. Robert Megerdichian, article about him appeared in the Boston Globe. He’ll be appearing at the Museum on October 2nd.
5. Nicole commented that she has found so many items donated by and related to Stella Jeon that she could have her own exhibit. (Her family ran Jimmy’s package and candy store at the northeast corner of the railroad bridge on East Central St.)

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - None this month, but much discussion.

1. Nicole and Alison mentioned HABS Reports - these are specification studies of houses that are so detailed, a new house could be recreated from one. They require a fair amount of effort, are typically grant funded, and are submitted to the Library of Congress. These could be performed during the demolition delay period. Workers could be enlisted from schools.
2. Historic New England has an easement program.
3. Future consideration: amend the demolition delay bylaw from '1930' to '50+ years or great exception'.

L. ADJOURN - Voted 6-0 to adjourn.