



Municipal Building – Town of Franklin  
355 East Central Street  
Franklin, MA 02038

## Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes April 19, 2011

#### Attending:

##### Commissioners

##### Present:

Del Arnold  
Dianne Brunner  
Debbie Pellegrini (Chair)  
Bob Percy (Secretary)  
Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)

##### Absent:

Alan Earls

##### Associates

Colette Ferguson  
Connie Lawson  
Mary Olsson  
Mary O'Neill

##### Absent:

Eamon McCarthy Earls  
Marlene Oliver

##### Visiting:

Kai Olsson

#### Key:

→ = an action item

A→ = a resolved action item

#### Finances

No bills were received or paid this month.

## **Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved.**

### **Commission Membership**

Discussed the vacancy on the Commission. Debbie found that Eamon was not yet eligible to become a full Commission member because he is not yet 18. Mary Olsson expressed interest in the position. Mary O'Neill withdrew her own name. The Commission then voted to approve Mary Olsson. Congratulations!

The Commission also voted to approve Kai Olsson as an associate member. Congratulations!

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **⊗ Communications – (Bob, Alan, and Mary O'Neill)**

Bob and Alan are assisting Del with the brochure draft. This brochure can be formatted using software at FHS, Tri-County, or the BFC Charter School. Bob will provide Del with feedback on the text.

Bob discussed the need for reserving three domain names for the Museum's website. The Commission approved to reserve these domain names. Debbie suggested that we form a new Website Subcommittee. Members will be Alan, Bob, Mary Olsson, and Connie.

Steve Sherlock had suggested creating an easily recognizable logo for the Museum. Mary Olsson plans to work on a 'call for artists' to call for submissions to the public. We discussed unveiling the winning submission at the Strawberry Festival in June.

### **⊗ Document Preservation and Policies – (Alan, Connie, Del, and Eamon)**

It would be good to write a short procedure for using the new equipment, especially for interns who will use it.

A proposed project – to scan some the scrapbooks we have, created copies, then display the copies.

From the FHS, we could borrow FHS yearbooks we are missing, and scan copies of them.

Debbie mentioned that she has all Town reports on microfilm at the Town Offices. Would we want to provide some non-hardcopy form of these documents at the Museum?

### **⊗ Events - Debbie, Colette, Mary O'Neill, Eamon**

Mary Olsson agreed to write a brief description of the Town birthday celebration recently held at the Museum. Bob Dean will provide us with a DVD of the occasion.

The Strawberry Stroll (Festival) will be held on Thurs. June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Historical Commission has been asked to provide lemonade and perhaps to dress as gardeners or farmers with straw hats. The Downtown Partnership coordinator for this event is Dianne Glass ([Dianeglasslaw@gmail.com](mailto:Dianeglasslaw@gmail.com)).

Mary Olsson talked about the Straw Hat Society, a philanthropic group formed from Davis Thayer moms when the school was redistricted. They may want to help sponsor a booth at the Strawberry festival with us. Mary (as a member) will find out.

The Commission agreed to hold a gathering to commemorate the first anniversary of the Museum's opening during regular Sunday hours, on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mary O'Neill said she would gather info about who to invite from surrounding towns. Kai suggested that this info could be stored in a spreadsheet for future communication with those folks.

⊗ **Grants - Marlene, Alan**

Nothing new to report.

⊗ **Hosting - Debbie, Mona**

Museum school visit: Lisa Rein will visit with 3 classrooms of fifth graders on Wednesday May 25th with a rain date of May 26. The first class would come at 9 AM-another at 10 AM and the last at 11 AM. Del and Debbie will attend, and provide a short program.

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – Alan**

Alan and Del met with Rob Lawson. A rising senior wants to work in the Museum for next year. (We can get the name from Alan.) Rob may also want to help us oversee a high school internship program.

Del suggested that we have a list of procedures for interns.

⊗ **Museum Displays - Del, Alice, Dianne, Colette**

Pat Danson from Dean College is putting together some items about Dean College that we can display at the Museum.

Debbie and Colette have arranged with Norfolk Glass in Wrentham to provide us with Plexiglas to cover our display cabinet drawers. Colette agreed to ask Wayne S. there for a 1/8" sample.

⊗ **Museum Operations - Del (inventory, requests), Alice (finances), Dianne**

Alice reports that there are no new bills.

We discussed items we need to purchase: paper for the printers, esp. 11" x 17". We also need clear protector sheets for documents and pictures.

We discussed way to prevent displayed pictures from curling. Perhaps a foam board backing with glueable slot corners (as in old picture albums). How do they handle this at other museums? Mary O'Neill said she would research this.

There are many 1888 Town maps downstairs. We need to bring them upstairs to the gift shop for sale. The price is now \$5./ea.

Connie knows someone who is a fabric preservation specialist. We would like to get their feedback about what we can do in this area.

⊗ **Publicity – Colette, Mary Olsson, Mary O’Neill**  
Collette agreed to join the Publicity Subcommittee.

### **Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)**

The FFHM account stands at \$3100. We have received a \$500. reimbursement from the Franklin Cultural Council.

### **Correspondence**

Del received an email from Alan S., offering to donate information about his great, great, great grandfather David Corson, who helped build the Unitarian Church and who fought in the Civil War. He has some outstanding Civil War items to share with us. We now have digital copies of a handwritten map of the Appomattox siege at Petersburg showing the union and Confederate lines, and his enlistment and discharge papers. Thank you!

### **Housing Rehab Requests – None**

### **Demolition Requests**

Visiting today was Karl Peterson of 37 Crescent St., who requested approval to demolish the house at that address, and replace it with another of similar dimensions. After reviewing the information and photographs that Mr. Peterson provided, the Commission voted to grant him permission to demolish the structure. Bob agreed to provide formal notice in writing of the Commission’s decision to Town Building Commissioner David Roche and to Mr. Peterson.

### **Research Requests**

Del received a phone request from someone who wanted to know more about the history of ownership of 31 Hayward St. The Assessor’s Office would know the history of tenants in this building. (We could then add this information to our files.)

### **New Business**

Debbie has been in touch with the owners of the shopping mall on E. Central St. They like the idea of expanding the Horace Mann commemoration site to include the cupola from the Four Corners School. David Roche said that a carpenter could make some repairs to it.

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