

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2015

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

Absent: Colette Ferguson.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from July 14th, approved as amended (5-0).

B. APPOINTMENTS — None.

C. PRESENTATIONS — None.

D. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

1. Historic plaque program. This is potentially quite an involved project. In Franklin, the homeowners would perform their own research at the Town Assessor's office and at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Dedham. Each town has its own regulations. Debbie will attempt to research what's been done in some other towns.
2. Guidelines on Acquiring/Displaying Weddings Dresses - should they have a Franklin connection? A motion: All wedding dresses must have a clear Franklin connection, for accession or display. Passed 5-0.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Franklin Arts Festival - (July 25th - Aug. 2nd) - We agreed to target one day to participate: Sunday August 2nd. Demonstrations were very interesting (rug braiding by Phyllis M. and wool spinning by Nancy Zazza), but there was little foot traffic in town.
2. PastPerfect (Bob) - Bob will research how other museums label their objects. We should do the same here, by ordering the proper labels from Gaylord, Inc. We hope John Campbell can continue to help inventory items.
3. Adding 78 RPM records to PastPerfect - Mary has begun to enter information about audio recordings into PastPerfect.
4. Digitized documents - Bob is waiting to hear from our contact at the Boston Public Library. The first book we'll have archive.org digitize is the Franklin Business Directory from 1905.
5. Museum Siding - The existing asbestos siding must come off. Work will begin on the east side of the building and continue clockwise. The lower part will be sided; the steeple will be sanded and painted.
6. Wedding Gown Display - We agreed to take down the display the last two weekend days of August.
7. Textile Preservation - URI has textile preservation courses. One of us (perhaps Connie) may be able to take a preservation course. We may investigate whether our NEMA membership can give us a tuition discount.
8. Veterans Picture Display - on hold.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Album Project at FHS - No progress recently, but a point of clarification: the Franklin Educational Association funded the purchase of the equipment. The Historical Commission owns this equipment, which is currently on loan at FHS. The student who worked on this in 2013/14 loaded the converted files onto the left computer in the Library Room.
2. Museum Trek - ongoing.

3. Clothing Room - Mary has a rolling hanging rack we could use there.
4. Reference Room - ongoing (filing)
5. Film Project (Bob Oliver) - ongoing
6. Susan Elliot/transcription of diaries - not certain of the progress

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Is anyone available to fill in to host on Aug 20th?
2. NEMA is planning to hold a Massachusetts Museum Day on Oct. 7th at the State House. Mary expressed an interest in attending. A motion to this effect passed 5-0. She suggested a tabletop presentation of Horace Mann, and any update on the plans for the Horace Mann statue at the downtown's western edge.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The current balance is roughly the same as last month (\$7,100).

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

The Franklin Public Library is having the Sentinels digitized. Library Director Felicia Oti may attend a future Hist Comm meeting.

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – None.

L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 5-0.