



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes February 16, 2010

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Dianne Brunner
Alan Earls
Debbie Pellegrini
Bob Percy

Visiting:

Eamon McCarthy Earls
Deborah Kreiser-Francis (museum professional)
Marlene Oliver

Commission Membership

Debbie suggested soliciting for new associate members. We can have an unlimited number of them. Eamon McCarthy Earls would like to become an associate member, and will submit a formal letter of request to the Commission.

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, as amended, from 1/26/10.

Commission members are welcome to check the Commission's mail box at the Town Offices, and to notify Commission members of any timely issues before the next meeting.

Finances

We discussed our need for supplies for the coming months, with regard to normal operations, as well as the museum opening, and noted various budget items and proposed amounts. Included are:

Equipment (maintenance services) (\$300.)

- For the copier
- For the laptop

Printing (\$600.)

- Stationery
- Envelopes
- Thank you cards
- Stickers for correspondence (denoting 35 years as a museum)

Record Preservation (\$750.)

- Acid-free folders and materials
- Hollinger boxes for storing textiles

Department Supplies (\$300. To \$600.)

- Toner cartridges
- Staples
- Office supplies
- Museum brochures
- CDs for backups

Meetings and Conferences (\$300.)

- Conference fees

Dues and Memberships (\$300.)

- NEMA membership

Homoraria – for work study (\$3000.)

[??Debbie to supply final figures we proposed here.]



Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

The progress is brisk, and within budget:

- The carpeting is going in
- Floor emblem is going in
- Debbie showed us swatches for the light-filtering shades. At \$5K these are preferable to Roman shades (c. \$15K), and yield 1% filtered light. She'll match colors at the museum with the contractor

Deborah Kreiser-Francis toured the museum with Alan E.

We may want to put up a Welcome plaque that describes the purpose of the building.

Museum Inventory

Del has assembled a booklet that combines the records of property surveys, historic plaque assignments, and brief histories of Franklin's older properties.

Museum Move

The display items in the old museum have been prepared for the move to the new museum. The electrical wires to the display cases have been disconnected. The items displayed in the church-related case require additional wrapping.

Museum – Strategic Plan

Deborah facilitated a brainstorming session about our priorities for the museum.

- Who are we trying to attract? Which curriculums are we trying to tie into? We would like to reach out to teachers, students, government, businesses, clergy, and civic leaders. Each has much to offer and much to gain at the museum.
 - Teachers (Alan E. will contact them)
 - Government (TBD will contact them)
 - Business (TBD will contact them)
 - Franklin Interfaith Council (Bob will contact them)
- More history for more people. A higher traffic rate in the museum has many benefits, including lending greater weight when applying for grants.

Though there is an enormous number of tasks to consider for reaching out to the community, the consensus was that the museum opening should not wait for this outreach to take place. We will continue towards a late Spring museum opening, while putting in place these various channels of cooperation.

Because the duties of the Commission are so varied, we decided to form subcommissions:

- Grants Committee – Dianne, Marlene, Deborah (w. help from writers Alan and Bob)
- Volunteers Committee – Debbie
- Museum Layout Committee – Del
- Events Committee – Alan, Bob

We may add to this list, as needed. Bob will add a bullet for each committee to the monthly Historical Commission meeting agenda.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Marlene suggested having a printed special events calendar of programmed events at the museum.

For the museum opening, Alan and Bob plan to contact Rae Lynn Mercer as a resource for piano talent.

Perhaps also for the opening, we may wish to have someone play the glass armonica, and instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin. Debbie and Alan may know someone.

Debbie plans to draw up donation categories for benefactors of the FFHM.

Old Museum – Future Use

Jeff Nutting and David Roche are considering offering the old museum for sale. We need to research the original guidelines and terms for the town's use of this building. Alternate use of the building should still be explored.

Jeff will draw up papers, and submit them to us for review. His contention is that renting the building incurs unwanted liability and expense issues.

Correspondence

Debbie received historical information about the Trowbridge family of Franklin, from Dick Higgins who grew up in the former Trowbridge homestead, formerly at 132 Main St. (now the library's parking lot at the corner of School St.). He said the Trowbridge piano business once had a storefront on Main St. close to the railroad tracks, in addition to the Trowbridge Piano factory, formerly across the tracks from the train station.

On a related note(!), the Commission voted to acquire the Trowbridge piano kindly offered to us by the McKenna family.

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests -- None

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