



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes January 15, 2008

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Dave Cargill
Carol Harper
Debbie Pellegrini
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Also attending:

Susan Nicol

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, from 12/18/07.

Finances

Our dues for our continued membership in the New England Museum Association (NEMA) are due (\$75.). Alice plans to send them payment for this.

Correspondence

Temporary Move of Museum Items

Jeff Nutting issued a memo to various town departments, to notify them of the plan for moving part of the museum's holding from Washington St. to the old Town Offices building on Emmons St. Carol handed out copies of this memo. The plan: the Historical Commission will a) use one half of the old DPW office for storage, and b) use the office formerly occupied by the Building Inspector as a work space. Geoff tells us that the DPW is available to move some items.

Commission members plan to meet at the old museum to determine which items we should move first.

Donation (Booklet)

Del received the gift of a booklet from Linda Galvao of Ohio called "20th Reunion of the Class of 1921 Franklin High School," and sent her a letter of thanks.

Proposed Tower

The Commission discussed a letter Del received from the American Tower Corporation, asking whether their plan to modify an existing tower to be 153' high would adversely affect the area's historic resources. (This would be at 60 Earl's Way, near the Norfolk town line.) Carol will draft a letter saying that we have no objections.

New Business

Meeting with Tri-County

Bob Percy reported on a Tuesday, Jan. 8th, meeting that he and Town Facilities Director David Roche had with Dana Franco and Jean George of Tri-County Reg. Vocational Tech School to discuss plans for new display cabinets and bookshelves for the new museum space. Dana provided an itemized estimate of costs for these projects. We looked at the physical specs for the cabinets and tweaked some of the drawer measurements. Dana requested seed money for this effort. (We later provided Dana with a check for \$6,500. for this purpose.) Tri-County will build the cabinets first, with a plan to complete this work by June 1st, 2008. David and Dana agreed to meet at the new Museum with measuring tapes to iron out some details of shelf dimensions.

Museum Inventory

Del plans to take photographs of some wall and case-top items. No new inventory work since our last (pre-Christmas) meeting. Del suggests scheduling interested volunteers into two-hour slots.

Entranceway of New Museum

Is there an old photo of the new museum building? Debbie P. believes there may be one on in old Town Report. This would help us in our efforts to refurbish the entranceway. Using real cobblestones as accents or borders was discussed.

Proposed Cultural Trail

Lisa Piana, Dir. of Town Planning, would like to design and implement a walking trail of cultural and historical interest, and has asked the Cultural Council and Historical Commission for input. Bob P. agreed to assist in this effort. Susan Nicol also expressed interest in working on this. We will need to identify sites and write descriptions of them. The tour would most likely begin at the new museum, where walkers could take pamphlets to guide them.

War Memorials

Carol H. and Dave C. plan to attend a meeting of the new Common Master Plan Committee Wed., 1/16/08 at the new senior center.

Upcoming Cub Scout Visit to the Museum

Del plans to meet Den Leader Thomas Cote and six cub scouts from Den 126 at the Museum in March, to make a small presentation to them about the town's history, and to show them some old photographs of the town.

New Book by Local Author

Carol has ordered for the Museum two copies of "The City Known as the Town of Franklin" by author and Jefferson School music teacher James Barrett.

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