



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2009

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Alan Earls
Debbie Pellegri
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes from 12/16/08.

Del gave a correction to Bob for the minutes for the Jan 8th meeting with the Court St. architects.

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

Our dues for membership for another year for the NE Museum Association (NEMA) are due on 3/1. The amount is \$75. We decided to pay this closer to the due date.

Obtaining 501 (c) 3 Status

Mona spoke to Herb Hunter who plans to review the application materials that Mona has completed.



Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

On Jan 8th, Alan, Del, Debbie, and Bob met with Joe Rizza of Court St. architects to discuss details of the plans for the museum's interior (see separate minutes for that meeting). Another meeting is planned for Jan. 22nd to continue discussing these details.

Del suggested saving the standing divider that's currently in the museum. We will need to place a SAVE FOR THE MUSEUM sign on it.

Museum Displays

Del suggested the Commission form a subcommittee of three who would focus on planning and designing museum displays. Subcommittee members are to be Del, Alan, and Alice. We discussed possible plans to have the central area of the main floor contain rotating displays, and keep cases that contain permanent displays around the periphery.

There's currently a baby grand piano in the new museum. We plan to find out whether this could be of use to someone.

Debbie received a call from a Mr. Peterson of New York State. He has a spinning wheel that was used by Horace Mann's second wife, and wondered if we would be interested.

Alan's son has made a three minute film. He may be able to create a short video (perhaps seven minutes long) that we could show in the museum's entranceway as people gather to enter.

Museum Wish List

It would be good to have a modern standing display fixture to which we could attach photographs and other flat items.

Commission member Alan Earls has written a book called "Franklin: Then and Now." It is a wonderful book full of old and new photographs of the town. We should have copies available at the museum.

Museum Inventory

Del has been making progress at 150 Emmons St. in an increasingly crowded space. He would like to meet with other Commissions members on a Thursday or Friday afternoon to share what needs to be done there.

Barbara S. and Nina Santora have listed items in Franklin's chronological history.

Del has been in touch with Lou Allevato, whose son is interested in volunteering there.

Housing Rehab Requests -- None**Demolition Requests – None**

Research Requests – None. We still need to draw up a short fee schedule for the various tasks the public can request.

Correspondence

Debbie P. had received a copy of a letter (dated 12/4/08) from Brona Simon of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to Joshua W. Reinke of Bohler Engineering, who are to build the Walgreens on the site of the Four Corners School building. It states some concerns about possible negative repercussions from the plan to demolish that structure. In reply, the Historical Commission sent out a letter to the MHC, and other interested parties, stating its reasons for allowing the demolition to proceed.

Commission Membership

We have an opening on the Commission. It would be ideal for the prospective member to have some background in museum work. We discussed the possibility of notifying the press of our needs in this area.

Downtown Partnership

The Commission will take an increasingly important role in the Downtown Partnership, which meets every other month, on the 3rd Thursday, at 8AM in the Golder Room of the Dean College Student Center. Del and Alan attended the most recent meeting.

Starting in March, the downtown will see stores open late on Thursday evenings, and there will be cultural events of various types to promote foot traffic there. Perhaps we could open the museum on Thursday nights.

Town Website

Bob P. has been gathering past meeting minutes, converting them to PDF format, and is working on posting them to the Commission's website.

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