



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2011

Attending:

Commissioners

Present:

Del Arnold
Alan Earls
Debbie Pellegrini (Chair)
Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)

Absent:

Bob Percy (Secretary)
Dianne Brunner

Associates

Connie Lawson
Eamon McCarthy Earls
Mary O'Neill

Absent:

Colette Ferguson
Marlene Oliver
Mary Olsson

Key:

→ = an action item

A→ = a resolved action item

Finances

No bills were received or paid this month.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved. Thanks to Alan for taking minutes for this meeting.

Commission Membership

Mona's resignation—agreed to discuss opening with associates to see if any of them would like to be nominated.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Del is working on brochure draft.

Debbie reported that the IT department in town has no idea what happened to the online version of the Wadsworth Diaries. It was suggested that Bob was thinking of contacting Gale Lembo to see if the text exists electronically.

Alan is to mention to Rob Lawson at Dean (see below) our interest in having someone, perhaps at Dean College, develop an expanded walking trail, based on the Remington-Jefferson trail.

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

Del has information on how to do oral histories and will continue to try to develop a plan. He said the senior center has done some. Del and Debbie reported that Karen Alves had brought video tapes of various interviews to the Commission. 15 are still missing. Stella Gione is working on this with the cable TV folks.

Video Archives Ltd. on Winterberry, has proposed to copy these items to DVD. The commission unanimously voted to authorize Debbie to take care of this

Del is working on scans of 100 or so postcards. He wants to make them easy to reproduce.

Del reported that the subcommittee has recommended purchase of a terabyte drive, a color printer, and a scanner. Tracy McLeod of the town's IT department generously donated her own personal letter size scanner to the Commission. Del plans to seek an additional 11x17 scanner for larger items.

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

Vera Meyer and the glass armonica will play Sunday. Eamon and Alan reported that the proposed Gulf War veterans event will probably not happen. Veterans agent Bob Fahey has said there was no response by veterans to the posting.

⊗ Grants - Marlene, Alan

Alan indicated he is assembling a list of potential grants and hopes to do more with it. Connie provided a list of several National Endowment for the Humanities grants.

⊗ Hosting - Debbie, Mona

Debbie reported that things are going well. She said DPW has committed to trying to plow in support of our open hours. It was also suggested that DPW provide a bucket of salt for front and rear entrance.

At some point Debbie mentioned that she plans to buy a laminator from the museum money. Alan and Connie expressed concerns that the laminating process might damage historic items. Alan will research and contact Deborah Francis Kreiser for input.

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – Alan**

Alan reported he had been in contact with Rob Lawson at Dean who has been traveling. He does sound interested in working with the museum. Alan will recontact.

Del reported on a presentation at the Downtown Partnership meeting regarding Franklin High School senior projects. Alan will contact for details. Ditto on FHS art and video departments (at suggestion of Tracy MacLeod).

Eamon also mentioned that an AP teacher says he is interested in a project for the museum

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

Debbie suggested using one of the cabinets from the old museum on a rotating basis for changing exhibits.

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

Alan reported cannon is safe at DPW

Old museum to be monitored and pondered. No response apparently from church regarding their interest in taking ownership again.

⊗ **Publicity - Mona, Mary O.**

Mary O'Neill reported on collection of brochures she has gotten from other historical sites for comparison AND on visit to local hotel. They have agreed to use a photo of our museum instead of a generic "scenic" photo that they have displayed in their lobby. Mary to provide. They may also post our brochures.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Debbie reported that we have over \$3200. collected.

Correspondence -- None

Housing Rehab Requests -- None

Demolition Requests -- None

Research Requests – None

New Business

Alan suggested a one year anniversary of the museum move "social" to which we could invite historical commissions and societies from neighboring towns. This will be added to events for the future.

Alan also mentioned as an FYI that Eamon has completed a book on the Wachusett Reservoir. A copy was added to the Historical Commission library. Congrats and thank you to Eamon!

Del also suggested we contact eagle scouts (perhaps to build a sign for the museum).