

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2015

Commissioners Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini, Bob Percy.
Absent: None.

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from November 18, 2014. Approved as amended.

B. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None.

C. **APPOINTMENTS**

Phyllis Malcolm was approved by the Town Council as a member of the Franklin Historical Commission. Welcome! (Due to a communication mix up, we then voted 5-0 to accept Phyllis's membership post facto.)

We were very sorry to learn of the resignation of Minessa Konecky. Though she has agreed to help where possible, we will miss her!

D. **PRESENTATIONS**

Demolition requests:

221 Old Grove St. - Charlie Hunter (owner) and Steve Torrey (real estate agent) described the condition of the house and some of the methods attempted to eliminate the odors from the structure's woodwork.

92 Pleasant St - Chuck Comeau described the house, a 2-family.

36 Pinehurst St. - a bungalow style house

Susan Elliot - history of slavery in colonial Franklin. She described what she had learned so far, and we are interested in displaying her findings when they are ready, perhaps as early as February (national Black History Month).

Bob Oliver - The Chilson video "chunking" project is going well. The resulting videos will be available to the public for a voluntary donation. We also plan to display the videos on a large HD monitor, perhaps in the Library Room.

E. **DISCUSSIONS/VOTES**

Framed pictures of WWII veterans -- We discussed ways to display the (14) frames of WWII veterans. At the recent NEMA conference in Boston, Bob spoke to a vendor that may be able to help. Bob will provide their contact info to Colette.

F. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

F1. Web Subcommittee (Bob, Mary) – Minessa may be able to continue helping with the museum website. Mary may want to participate as well. s responding to online requests for information from ex-Franklinites.

F2. Volunteers Training (Mary) — No one in the wings.

knows of another person who is willing to host. She is also in touch with someone who is already familiar with PastPerfect and can help us in cataloging.

F3. Computers/IT – Bob P. will speak to the town IT department about our aim to have all museum computers networked, and to have a standard set of MS Office applications installed on each.

F4. Chilson Film Project – Ongoing (see PRESENTATIONS).

F5. Ben's Birthday - went well and was very well attended. Group communication and preparation were discussed.

F6. NEMA Conference (Cambridge, Nov. 20th, 2014). Mary and Bob attended. Bob gave a summary of some seminars he attended and will send around formal notes when they are complete.

F7. Event Calendar - Discussion of a Victorian Secrets display.

G. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion tabled for this session.

H. NEW BUSINESS – None.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The current balance is \$6,213.52 (as of 11/30/14).

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – The Commission voted as follows on demolition requests:

221 Old Grove St.: motion to allow the demolition was not passed (2 -2). Two members felt that additional avenues need to be followed as an alternative to demolishing a 295 year old house.

92 Pleasant St.: Passed 4-0.

36 Pinehurst St.: Passed 4-0.

Bob will draft letters informing the Building Commissioner (Gus Brown) of these results, and of our hope to work with the owner of 221 Old Grove St. on the best way forward.

L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 4-0.