



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

## Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes July 19, 2011

#### Attending:

##### Commissioners

##### Present:

Del Arnold  
Mary Olsson  
Debbie Pellegrini (Chair)  
Bob Percy (Secretary)  
Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)

##### Absent:

Alan Earls

##### Associates

Colette Ferguson  
Connie Lawson  
Marlene Oliver  
Kai Olsson

##### Absent:

Eamon McCarthy Earls  
Mary O'Neill

#### Key:

→ = an action item

A→ = a resolved action item

#### Finances

No bills were received or paid this month.

**Last Meeting's Minutes** – Approved, as amended.

### **Commission Membership**

The Commission approved the nomination of Marlene Oliver as a full member of the Historical Commission.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **⊗ Communications – (Bob, Alan, and Mary O’Neill)**

Debbie brought in final printed copies of the new Museum brochure. Colette plans to send 10 copies apiece to adjacent towns. This will be part of an invitation to a future “tea” at the museum for historical commissioners from surrounding towns.

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

Thanks to Paul Carbone who has made another donation to the Museum: a Brownie camera.

Del has been in touch with someone who discovered a finger sized stone carving in a bag of pea stone from Home Depot.

The HP scanner which was donated to the Museum needs a printer driver.

Del has written a very detailed and helpful description of the new repro equipment and its uses. This will be an important tool for anyone who plans to use this equipment.

#### **⊗ Events – (Debbie, Colette, Mary O’Neill, Eamon)**

We plan to take down the Wedding Dress display after the first of August. Debbie has taken photos of each dress, and has copies of the newspaper articles written about the exhibit. We may put together a booklet about the exhibit.

Kai helped select and assemble photos from for the presentation Debbie is making to the Town Council to summarize the very busy and very successful first year at the Museum.

#### **⊗ Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Marlene has continued to keep in touch with people who can help us obtain grants.

#### **⊗ Hosting – (Debbie)**

Town seniors would be ideally suited to help host at the museum, given their depth of knowledge.

#### **⊗ Intern Coordinators – (Alan)**

Returning intern Lindsay is currently working on writing museum policies and procedures. Samantha may be able to help out with this too.

#### **⊗ Museum Displays – (Del, Alice, Colette)**

There are now foam boards and stick-on corners downstairs that we can use to remount some pictures that have been curling.

We may want to place a short display rack, on each location where two cabinets meet back to back, on which we can display pictures. This will increase the space we offer for displaying pictures.

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

Mary reported that Barbara Pisani donated a picture of a float from a 1914 parade in town. Seated in the car is a two year old boy who is her father.

Mary met with Marion Pierre Louis from Medway, who would like to give a talk at the Museum about how to research the history of one's house.

Del has met with Debbie Bean who would like to write about the history of Franklin for "The Franklin Paper". She has already written an article for this paper.

The Town is creating a board of directors to manage its cable TV operations. It has only recently obtained control of cable operations. We plan to investigate how to use these resources to help further an oral history archive of the town.

As an adjunct project to the oral history project, it would be nice to transcribe audio archives to written form. We would need some reasonably priced software that can do what Dragon software can do in this regard.

⊗ **Publicity – Colette, Mary Olsson, Mary O'Neill**

Kai attended the meeting of the Downtown Partnership.

⊗ **Website – Bob, Mary Olsson, Alan, and Connie**

Bob and Mary have been working on the website. Bob reported that the website is not yet live, but since we are now listing it on our brochures, we should make it accessible in its current draft form. Steve Sherlock can help in this process.

**Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)**

The FFHM account stands at \$3870.

**Correspondence** (see other sections)

**Housing Rehab Requests** – None

**Demolition Requests** -- None

**Research Requests**

We plan to obtain more information to obtain about the alleged Plimouth Colony land marker.

We are still trying to determine who were the industrial tenants of what is now 31 Hayward St., so we can inform the current tenants of the history of the building.

### **New Business**

Visiting tonight were Spencer and Lisa Gurney. They provided written information about a strange stone that was found at 919 Washington St. by Warren Milliken, while digging a septic tank. Mr. Milliken donated the stone to the museum at Plimouth Plantation. It may be a marker that indicates the northwest corner of the lands ceded by Native Americans to the fledgling Plimouth Colony. We plan to obtain additional information about this marker.

We are no longer pursuing Nat'l Register of Historic Places status for Old South Meeting House on Washington St. The application was pocketed by the Town administration, pending further clarification of the landmark's future.

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