



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes June 16, 2009

Attending:

Commissioners:

Alan Earls
Mona Ghiringhelli
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Visiting:

Dianne Brunner

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes from 5/26/09.

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

Alice submitted a budget for the coming year.

Our current balance is \$1174.37. Del then purchased roughly \$200. worth of additional supplies, including file folders and frames.

Commission Membership

The Historical Commission has approved Dianne Brunner as a member of the Historical Commission. We are now awaiting confirmation from the Town Council.

Obtaining 501 (c) 3 Status

Since we last met, Commission members have gathered to fill out the 501 (c) 3 application form. Mona plans to meet with Herb Hunter to fill in any missing information.

New Business

Four Corners Site

Attending this month's meeting as part of the Four Corners site project:

Sandy Worcester -- Photo specialist.

Doug Benoit – Arista Development. Presented designs for an interpretive sign at the site. He will create a mock-up layout for the sign and bring it to next month's meeting.

Sandy and Doug submitted a mock-up layout for the commemorative sign about the Four Corners School, to be placed onsite. Though we discussed some minor changes, the layout was outstanding, and should serve the site's needs well. Some items that would be desirable to add:

- The total number of students who attended the school over the years
- A photograph of the school that includes some of the students. Perhaps the Franklin Sentinel is a possible resource for this.

The status of the cupola was discussed. There were reports that the cupola might not be sturdy enough to be preserved. The Commission conferred on this and we confirmed our strong interest in seeing the cupola preserved, and discussed some possible scenarios for having it displayed. Bob agreed to draft a letter to David Roche, Director of Facilities, to express this support.



Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

It will be good to have a scaled map of the new museum, to help us plan where to move things. Norma Collins (Town Purchasing) will provide such a map to us, once the exact list of reconstruction tasks is known (after July 1st).

Debbie has been in contact with Bob Landry, who plans to refurbish the horse drawn fire pump.

Interview Tapes

Stella Joan, Franklin cable TV personality who has interviewed many town residents, is moving out of town. The Commission would like to determine whether her interviews have been preserved on tape. Alan agreed to contact Chris Flynn to ask about this.

Museum Inventory

Dianne and Del continue to make great progress in placing many hundreds of photographs in order.

Del has created a binder full of diagrams and photographs of all display cases. This will be an invaluable tool for our records, and for orienting the display cases in the new museum space.

Mona received a note from student volunteer Emily Manns asking if we could use her help.

Downtown Mural

David Roche is looking for old pictures of downtown Franklin that might be used as a source for a mural to be put on the exposed building surface left by the demolition of the Franklin Cinema. The early 1900 postcard view of a horse by the watering trough has been suggested.

David and Beth Dahlstrom reviewed the hundreds of photos being sorted at 150 Emmons to select other possibilities. The final selection may be several views on a format yet to be determined.

Housing Rehab Requests -- None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests – None

Correspondence

Del received a thank you letter from volunteer Nick Allevato. We thank Nick for all his work on entering information about the Museum's inventory into the Museum's database!

Mona provided copies of a memo from Town Attorney Mark Cerel, concerning the latest State guidelines about committee members and meeting attendance. The heart of the matter: "...if [a] board is holding a multiple session adjudicatory hearing and a member misses a single session, he or she may now maintain his or her eligibility [to vote on the matter at hand] by reviewing the record of the missed session."

We received a brochure from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, about an upcoming seminar to be held in Nashville, TN.

* **** * * * *