



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes June 21, 2011

Attending:

Commissioners

Present:

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

Absent:

Mary Olsson

Associates

Colette Ferguson
Connie Lawson
Marlene Oliver

Absent:

Eamon McCarthy Earls
Kai Olsson
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

Dianne Brunner has resigned from the Commission. We thank her for her years of service to the Commission.

Debbie asked the Associate members present (Connie, Colette, and Marlene) to consider filling the new vacancy.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Marlene provided copies of the Museum brochure her husband Bob put together. Many thanks to Bob O. for a beautiful job.

We are still expecting to receive additional submissions for the Museum logo. We plan to select the winning logo at our next meeting on July 19th.

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

Debbie has given to the Museum:

- A copy of the 2010 Annual Report (bound)
- Photos of the Town's 225th birthday celebration from 2003
- Letters from Davis Thayer 2nd graders (bound)
- A glass armonica CD from visiting artist Vera Myers

Del is putting together ideas for a procedure/checklist (perhaps two) for using our new equipment. This will be useful for interns or anyone not familiar with it.

We should add information to the web about the information we have available on microfilm, and that one can view this information by appointment. (We would schedule these appointments when we knew a Commission member would be hosting.)

We have received three very generous donations of items to the Museum:

- A reel-to-reel film of the Centennial of Dean College (1965). Thanks go out to Jim Garner of West Gardiner, ME.
- A copy of "The Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the Town of Franklin from 1778 to 1872. Thanks go out to Gene Alvord of Tulsa, OK.
- Many items provided in person by Sarita Jo Mattson, and her husband, from Bethesda, MD:
 - Items belonging to her foster mother, longtime Franklin schoolteacher Alice Wiggin: a box of photo albums, letters, an engraved award silver cup, and an award plaque,
 - Items belonging to May Willard, former neighbor of Alice Wiggin: scrapbook of her 100th birthday and several paintings of animals created by Ms. Willard.

⊗ Events – (Debbie, Colette, Mary O'Neill, Eamon)

Rich Schmidt, history teacher at Franklin High School has expressed interest in speaking on various subjects at the Museum. This could be part of an overall program of faculty keynote speakers.

The Commission voted unanimously to extend the display of wedding dresses through the month of July. As a result, we will postpone any Civil War commemorations until later this summer.

Alan suggested having “Silent Saturday” events at the Museum, at which we would show silent era movies.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Marlene met for 90 minutes this month with State Senator Richard Ross (a descendant of Horace Mann also). Possible future grants:

- A two hour film production of the life of Horace Mann
Charles Glenn, BU professor, wrote a book about Horace Mann. The best way to approach this project would be to assemble a team of scholars (PhDs) to collaborate on the direction of the project.
- Creating yesterday’s Main Street surrounding the Stanley Chilson film legacy

Alan met with the head of the Franklin Library Association. For the mutual benefit of the FLA and the Historical Commission, we may collaborate with them on grant applications.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Three classrooms of fifth graders visited the Museum on Wednesday May 25th. All 70+ students wrote to tell us what they enjoyed seeing. We greatly appreciate this feedback on our current and possibly future displays! Thanks to Del for placing all of these essays into a binder for our perusal at the Museum.

Some FHS students also visited the Museum. We may receive essays from them on their impressions of the Museum.

Alan reports that FHS teacher Chris Schmidt may bring other FHS teachers to the Museum to get a sense of what is here.

People who have hosted only once or twice would like to be asked again. We plan to include them when putting together future host calendars.

Mary Olsson spoke to a woman (Samantha) who is interested in hosting.

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – (Alan)**

We discussed some potential areas in which interns could help, and concluded the following:

- Scanning? Yes
- Marketing/minding the gift shop? No
- Helping run “Silent Saturdays”? Yes

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

We need to insert some kind of peg or screw in the back of each drawer so that the glass will stay inserted in the slot in the drawer’s front plate.

→Who can do this? It’s a simple operation, but requires materials and time.

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

We determined, from discussion and research, that the best way to prevent original pictures from curling is to use corner stickers to adhere the pictures to acid-free foam boards. (The best overall solution may be to make copies of the photographs, display the (non-curling prone) copies, and preserve the originals in acid-free folders downstairs.)

We may contact some potential interns (such as E.M.) to assist with this task.

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

→(From last time) Colette plans to write an article to have people contact a Historical Commission member if they will be disposing of items that are old.

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

Mary Olsson and Bob continue to work with Steve Sherlock to develop our new website.

Perhaps post information about the cupola on the Museum website.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

The FFHM account stands at \$3700.

Correspondence (see other sections)

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests -- None

Research Requests

We received an information request about the Rail Trail effort. Alan will respond to Steve Sherlock who sent it to us.

Del is researching prior ownership of 31 Hayward St. It was built around 1900, and has housed many businesses since then. (One of the current tenants wanted to know.)

New Business

Eamon has completed the application to the State to have the Old South Meeting House included in the Nat’l Register of Historic Places. They have approved his proposal, and directed him to a website that provides useful information to complete the process by applying to the Federal Government. They also recommended that he contact consultants who specialize in National Preservation. Congratulations to Eamon on all his work on this so far.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Carbone came by and kindly donated two large models of two WWII era airplanes to the Museum: a P40 (Tiger Shark) and a P47 (Thunderbolt).

Building Commissioner David Roche invites Commission members to examine the condition of the cupola being stored for us at the DPW yard on Hayward St. The plan is to expand the Horace Mann commemoration site to include the cupola from the Four Corners School.

The Spanish gunboat gun from the Spanish American War has been reinstalled on the Town Common.

***** * * * * *