



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes May 26, 2009

Attending:

Commissioners:

Dianne Brunner
Alan Earls
Mona Ghiringhelli
Debbie Pellegrini
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Visiting:

Glen Jones

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, with corrections, from 4/17/09.

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

Two bills: for the alarm service (\$240.) and the new copier (\$209.).

Commission Membership

Dianne Brunner has submitted her application to become a full member of the Commission. The Commission voted unanimously in approval. Congratulations Dianne!

Obtaining 501 (c) 3 Status

Herb Hunter attended the meeting to provide guidelines and to answer our questions. Some notes:

- The Commission should fill out the application form as a group. We agreed to meet before the next Commission meeting to do this.
- We could incorporate fairly easily. (The Senior Center gift store is incorporated.) We should contact Town Comptroller Susan Gagner to find out about this.
- We need to state to whom the corporation's assets would go upon dissolution.
- A 501 (c) 3 could apply for its own grants.
- LLCs and corporations – Each would provide “corporate shield” for its board of directors.
- The IRS does not require a 501 (c) 3 corporation to file a tax return, provided the corporation's income is less than 25K per year.
- When the 501 (c) 3 seeks donations from corporations, they will need a copy of our tax exempt status form.
- Once we are a corporation, we will:
 - Apply to the Commonwealth of MA for a sales tax number.
 - Fill out Form SS4 to apply for a Federal ID number. This will allow us to open a bank account.
 - Draft a set of bylaws (including a non-discrimination policy, guidelines about conflicts of interest). Perhaps we can use another town entity's bylaws as a template when drafting our own.

Future: We may want to set up a historical award program, to recognize citizens who have given of their time, talent, or treasure to the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum. We should keep of database of such helpers, so we can keep record of the historically-related skills people can contribute.

New Business

Four Corners Site

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

Sandy Worcester -- Photo specialist and member of Southboro Hist Comm, who wrote a historical description of the Four Corners School. She submitted her written description and photos to the Historical Commission in hardcopy and online form. She provided a duplicate binder for us to submit to the Mass. Historical Commission for their records.

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.

Debbie P. has asked around for pictures of the school that include students, but none have surfaced so far.

Demolition of the school building will start in the next few weeks. Planned opening date for the Walgreens store on this site is the first quarter of next year (1Q10).

Post-demolition salvage of the school's cupola, if possible: Because of its size, the salvaged cupola will likely remain outside at a location TBD by the DPW and the Commission.

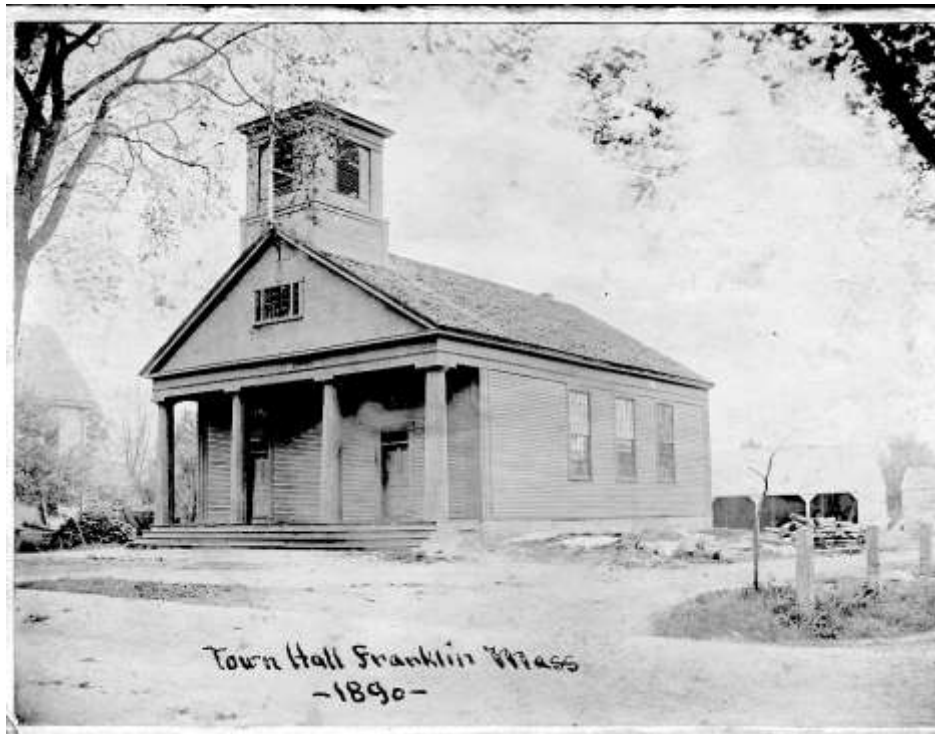
Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

It would be good to have a scaled copy of the new museum, to help us plan where to move things. Norma Collins (Town Purchasing) may have a copy we can use.

Some suggested changes to help reduce the cost of refurbishment:

- No platforms above as you enter the mail hall
- No exterior repairs to the building
- No chimney removal
- No replacing of low hanging duct work downstairs
- No new window between kitchen and main hall
- No removal of wall between two rooms downstairs
- Scaled down front doors.
- Interior door for library: possibly use one from the Four Corners School

We need to change the sign at the old museum to notify people of the location of the new museum.



Museum Inventory

Dianne and Del continue to place photographs in order. There are many aerial shots of the town. We could provide "before" and "after" views of some locations, using these (before) and Google Earth images (after).

Bob Landry has agreed to refurbish the old pumper (fire apparatus).

The old museum – we agreed to have the water turned on, but not the heat, given the current season.

Housing Rehab Requests -- None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests – None

Correspondence

We had received information from EBI Consulting of Burlington, MA who is managing the project of constructing a new telecommunications tower on the grounds of the new fire station at 40 West Central St. Bob drafted a letter of reply saying that the Commission has no objections to this project.

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