



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes November 15, 2011

Attending:

Commissioners

Present:

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

Absent:

Marlene Oliver
Mary Olsson

Associates

Present:

Colette Ferguson
Connie Lawson

Absent:

Eamon McCarthy Earls
Kai Olsson
Mary O'Neill

Visiting: Lindsay Stewart

Finances

No bills were received or paid this month.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved as amended.

Commission Membership

Nothing pending.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Community Outreach – (Bob, Alan, and Mary O'Neill)**

Does the Commission have an email address? Bob will investigate.

Bob received contact information for people to whom we'd like to send thank you letters.

Alan and Bob met to go over a list of possible topics and speakers that Alan had put together.

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

Alan suggested that we purchase a reference book about managing small museums.

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

We discussed the possibility of extending the display of military uniforms beyond new years.

A huge thank you to Colette and Connie for all of their hard work in setting up this beautiful display.

Possible displays for Spring and the following months:

- Scouting, perhaps to coincide with the Girl Scout's centennial (March 1912)
- A return of the glass armonica concert (January, for Ben Franklin's birthday)
- Political memorabilia (to coincide with the MA Presidential Primary, March 6th)
- School related items (end of Summer)

Lecture series – Del has been in contact with a woman who has done extensive genealogical research, including on Franklin residents. She may like to share her techniques and findings in a one-time talk at the museum.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

No news.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – (Alan)**

Lindsay Stewart has contributed her work in the following areas:

- A brochure about what's in each display case, and what's significant about it
- Has taken photos of display case exhibits to match them to their respective descriptions

We may want to make Lindsay's work available on the Museum website.

She mentions that she could use help taking pictures. Debbie has also taken pictures we may want to use.

Rich S. of Dean College has been doing archival work downstairs.

Alan has been in touch with Deborah Kreiser-Francis. She would like to help with publicity, events, and community outreach. Alan will write up a proposal for a volunteer internship.

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

See **Events**.

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

We discussed the need to identify any materials we will need to purchase. Members will research and price specific items. Del suggested purchasing ancestry.com for use at the museum.

In the past Marlene and Bob discussed the need to write a protocol for borrowing items from other museums. This may already be outlined in the museum information Alan would like to purchase (see **Document Preservation and Policies**).

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

No news.

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

We discussed making the Civil War research that was conducted by FHS students available on the museum website.

Bob will add Alan's two handouts (in PDF) to the museum website.

We are participating in the upcoming Holiday Stroll (Thurs., 12/1).

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

The FFHM currently has \$3499.52 in its account. During the year, FFHM has used these funds for:

- Supplies
- Manikins
- Harvest Festival
- Fees to the State of MA

Alan suggested that we fund an annual award (perhaps called the Smith Duvall Award, in honor of Barbara Smith and Herman Duvall) to recognize outstanding contributions to historical preservation for the Town of Franklin. Alan plans to draft a notice for the newspaper(s) that asks for nominees.

Correspondence (see other sections)

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests

129 Union St. – We plan to consider this demolition request at a special Commission meeting on December 1st.

Research Requests – None

New Business

None.

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