



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

## Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes October 19, 2010

#### **Attending:**

##### Commissioners

##### Present:

Del Arnold  
Dianne Brunner  
Alan Earls  
Mona Ghiringhelli  
Marlene Oliver  
Debbie Pellegri  
Bob Percy  
Alice Vendetti

##### Absent:

none

##### Associates

Colette Ferguson  
Connie Lawson  
Mary O'Neill

#### **Finances**

No bills were received or paid this month.

**Last Meeting's Minutes** – Approved.

#### **Commission Membership**

As Town Clerk, Debbie swore in Mary O'Neill as a new Associate Member of the Historical Commission. Congratulations Mary!

(To become an Associate Member of the Historical Commission, prospective Associate Members need to a) send a letter of request to the Town Clerk and b) meet with the Town Administrator Jeff Nutting.)

### **Election of Officers**

After some discussion and nominations, the Commission voted and approved the following Commission officers for the coming year:

Chair – Debbie Pellegri

Treasurer – Alice Vendetti.

Secretary –Bob Percy

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bob collected input from Commission members about arranging the Commission into subcommittees, then sent out the list of subcommittees and their tasks. Though we can fine tune as need be, the structure looks pretty stable at this point. This and future meeting minutes and agendas will be arranged alphabetically by subcommittee.

#### **⊗ Communications – Bob (added Alan and Mary O'Neill)**

Part of our discussion today is to balance the workload more effectively among subcommittees, and members who serve on them.

Mary O'Neill agreed to look through the Museum log each month and distribute useful information and requests for information to the appropriate subcommittees.

#### **⊗ Document Preservation and Policies - Alan, Connie, Del, (added Eamon M.-E.)**

Del emailed out a comprehensive "Microfilm and Repro Equipment Study" for the Commission to review. Some topics discussed:

- What repro equipment do other small museums have?
- Alan knows a vendor in Manchester, NH who will digitize a sample reel of microfilm for us. If we move forward on this, the Franklin Library may want to share the cost with us.
- We want the following capabilities: a) a scanner that can help us preserve digital images of our photos and text, and b) a copier for giving visitors on-the-spot copies of images and documents for a nominal fee.

#### **⊗ Events - Debbie, Colette, (added Mary O'Neill and Eamon M.-E.)**

Colette found out about and/or contacted the following performers:

- An actress at Sturbridge Village. Perhaps she would be appropriate for a Thanksgiving related event
- Walter Buckingham, also of Sturbridge Village. A full-time musician. Debbie asked if he could be available at the Museum on Sunday 11/21. He would be paid out of the Friends (FFHM) funds.

On Thursdays this winter, the Museum will close if school has been canceled that day. Bob will post that info to the website.

We will be open on Veteran's Day, Thurs, 11/11.

Eamon suggested:

- Suggested showing Charlie Chaplin movies (as obtained from the High School)
- Noted that this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Gulf War. There are 20 veterans of this war living in Franklin. Perhaps we could invite one of them to speak about it. (An aside: town monuments do not include mention of Gulf War vets, likely because all from Franklin who served survived.)
- This is the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. We may want to recognize this.

⊗ **Grants - Marlene, Alan**

Marlene is working on the preparation grant for the town. Before it goes out, she'll give it to Alan and Bob for comments. She is planning to send informational packets to local political representatives to obtain letters of endorsement.

⊗ **Hosting - Debbie, Mona**

Del distributed an updated Hosting Information sheet. (This provides a list of tasks for museum hosts to follow when hosting.)

Debbie visited the Jefferson School. There are no funds in their budget for them to visit us this year.

The Newcomer's Club will be visiting, on an off-hours basis.

Forge Hill seniors will be visiting on 11/8.

Davis Thayer School is planning a visit (still being arranged).

Del mentioned that no one could cover the museum on Sunday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. He noted that on Saturdays (open 10 to 1), people generally do not arrive until 11AM. Perhaps we should adjust our Saturday (and Sunday) hours to account for this.

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – Alan**

Del spoke to Prof. Rob Lawson of Dean. Rob would like to have any Dean interns be able to perform some non-clerical research. Alan will work on a schedule and list some ideas that Dean students could research.

Alan plans to have museum consultant Deborah Kreiser-Francis attend our next meeting, so we can brainstorm about displays and other topics.

⊗ **Museum Displays - Del, Alice (added Dianne B. and Colette F.)**

Dianne and Colette have now joined this subcommittee.

When the subject turned to clocks, it was noted that Bob Vallee fixes clocks.

We need a sign for the Blue Bench. Debbie plans to write one.

We need a 'Welcome' sign for the library room.

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

Mike D'Angelo and Jeff Nutting are working on selecting and installing a conventional lock on the front door of the museum.

We need to clear out the vault room downstairs, work with the DPW to move items from 150 Emmons St. to the vault room, and move items from Washington St. to the downstairs area of the Museum.

⊗ **Publicity - Mona, Mary O.**

Keep putting our hours of operation in various newspapers, including the Woonsocket Call. We can put information about the Museum in the Town’s quarterly newsletter. Mona is looking into this.

⊗ **School and Community Outreach - Alan, Bob**

We agreed to disband this subcommittee, and split its responsibilities among the Events and Hosting subcommittees:

“Suggested Program Ideas” is moved to the Events Subcommittee

“Meet w. Public School Faculty during one of their “Professional Days” is moved to the Hosting Subcommittee

“Turn ideas into a task list” is moved to the Events Subcommittee

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

There is currently more than \$3,300. in this account, from donations, grants, and proceeds from the Gift Shop.

**Correspondence** – None

**Housing Rehab Requests** -- None

**Demolition Requests** – None

**Research Requests** – Del received a request for information about a property on E. Central St. He responded that the property is not in our list of inventoried properties.

**New Business**

- Where to put the cupola from the Four Corners School? – One suggestion – to place it near the granite Horace Mann memorial on East Central St.
- Spanish American War cannon – Clair Lewis’s husband (Al Lewis of Washington St.) donated this cannon to the Town. We want this to return to its place on the Town Common, and painted in accordance with historical appropriateness (black). Alan plans to speak with the painter about this.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Oak Elementary School will visit the Museum on foot in May. There’ll be 3 classes visiting in a single day. One hour each. Contact Lisa Rein 520-4852.
- The Library has given to us some items from their collection:
  - a medal and letter to the Town from President Theodore Roosevelt on the occasion of Benjamin Franklin’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday (1906)
  - a Monsieur Montion commemorative medal

We will place these medals in the Ben Franklin case underneath the movie screen

- Del received a request for some copies of DVDs (Chilson films, 1953 thru 1958). This raises the question: what is our pricing policy for this kind of thing? We need to add these guidelines to our Commission’s bylaws.
- On 10/16, the Museum received high praise from visitors from the UK, Portugal, Brazil, Scotland, and Colombia who are now training at EMC. They expressed surprise at seeing such a great museum in this small town.

\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*