



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes November 17, 2009

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Dianne Brunner
Alan Earls
Debbie Pellegrini
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Visiting:

Marlene Oliver

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes from 10/20/09.

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

There are no new bills and \$1174.37 left in our account.

The fledgling 501©3 has already received a very generous donation from the Busy Bees at the Senior Center, in the amount of \$600.

Debbie P. had requested a grant from the Franklin Arts Council, but we have not heard back from them yet.



Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

Del and Debbie attended a meeting with the architect. Some notes about the work being done:

- Contractors are targetting the end of the year to complete their work. Jeff Nutting estimates that that we can ready the museum for public viewing 90 days after the contractors complete their work.
- The new windows have not arrived yet. When they are installed, the interior painting can begin in earnest.
- The window sills have rotted, and will need work.
- The front doors were mistakenly primed, and were sent away to have this new paint removed.
- The ceiling requires some plaster and lath work.
- The entranceway floor is now exposed wood, awaiting ceramic tile.
- Tri-County's exquisite cabinets for the library are complete.
- We had planned to have carpeting installed in the museum's basement, but the estimated cost is to be \$14K. Norma Collins (Town Procurement Dept.) is investigating some cost-effective alternatives.

Museum Inventory

Debbie has a ceiling mounted globe light from the Ray School, which she plans to donate to the new museum.

Thanks to Fire Chief McCarragher for returning to Debbie the Stanley Chilson books containing fire photographs.

Nick Allevato of Tri-County School is again volunteering his cataloging skills for the museum's inventory. He hopes to be able to help out during the school year.

Dianne has been spending a lot of time sorting and organizing hundreds of old photographs, and is now over 95% complete.

There was mention of one Walter Travis, a town resident who used to take photographs in town. Could we possibly locate and obtain copies of them?

A town resident is willing to donate a Victorian Era table to us for the Museum's North Room (the "Victorian Room").

A dedication ceremony took place, of the Vietnam War Fallen Heroes, as commemorated by street signs in town. Rose Turca put together two copies of the dedication ceremony with pictures and hero descriptions. Del obtained these for the museum.

A donation of a picture of the race track on East Central St., circa 1940, has been offered to us, if we can make a copy.

The drapes from the old senior center were moved across the street to 150 Emmons St.

Commission Membership

Nikki Estey has moved, and therefore resigned as an Associate Member. We thank her for her help.

Museum Procedures

Alan is looking for comments on his newly prepared "Procedures Manual for the Franklin Historical Museum."

Museum Internships

In the search for an intern, we must prove to the various college programs that we have meaningful museum work for the intern to do. Alan has put together a packet and a list of college programs to send copies of the packet to. He has agreed to send them out, and to be the contact person.

Museum Move – Layout Planning

Debbie reminded us that two moving companies, Rainbow Moving and Mayflower Movers want to help us in this effort.

Old Museum

The water has been turned off, anti-freeze added to the plumbing and the heaters turned on.

Forming a 501 (c) 3 Organization

Debbie has put together a set of by-laws for the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (hereafter known as FFHM). She reports that Mona has completed the 501 © 3 application. An attorney now needs to approve the Articles of Incorporation. This process will provide us with a number, with which we can open a bank account.

Debbie reminded us that Herb Hunter stated that Historical Commission members may also serve as officers of the FFHM. The FFHM needs directors: President, Treasurer, and Clerk.

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests

Ongoing -- the 18th C. house at 678 Pleasant Street at Green Street

Research Requests

An alumnus of Dean contacted Del to ask if we had any films of Dean Academy graduations from the 1940s. Del replied that we did not, and directed him to Dean College for additional leads.

Gathering with Seniors

The last meeting at the Senior Center, (Wed., Sept. 23rd at 10AM) was a big hit. Attendees were able to identify quite a few photographs Commission Members had brought along. Dianne has already prepared the next set of roughly 85 photographs to bring for our next gathering at the Senior Center.

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