



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes October 18, 2011

Attending:

Commissioners

Present:

Del Arnold
Alan Earls
Mary Olsson
Debbie Pellegrini (Chair)
Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)

Absent:

Marlene Oliver
Bob Percy (Secretary)

Associates

Present:

Colette Ferguson
Connie Lawson

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. Thanks to Alan for taking notes in Bob's absence.

Commission Membership

Nothing pending.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Alan and Del mentioned the enthusiastic visit of 10 Franklin High School teachers who may integrate museum into their curriculum. Del also tracked down a copy of the original town charter for one of the teachers. Del is looking into making a larger copy for the museum. Debbie asked if we could make a formal report of FHS meeting for future. She also asked about getting access to relevant student work.

Debbie mentioned that she was preparing for her annual presentation at Jefferson School.

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

Dean College intern Rick S. is doing high resolution scans of parts of our photo collection, as cataloged by Del and Dianne last year.

We discussed ordering in advance each year, a copy of the Franklin High School yearbook to add to our yearbook archives.

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

The Harvest Festival (Oct. 2nd) was wonderful. The antique cars were a hit again. Debbie estimates that we had a few hundred visitors at the museum that day, based on visual estimates and "donut count".

The Commission expresses its thanks to Kai Olsson for his music during the Festival.

Our next event is military uniforms. Debbie put notice on the town web site but no responses. Larry Bedarian might be in touch with the VFW.

WWII veteran Howard Crawford has full uniform and picture... he said he would bring to office.

Collette and Connie reported that we recently received a donation of a portable military reed organ, from the WWII era, that was used for religious services.

Mary Olsson suggested posting a notice about the museum accepting Franklin historical items...This was agreed. We plan to post this to three locations: the town website, the Historical Commission website, and the Museum website.

⊗ Grants – (Marlene, Alan)

Debbie applied for a Cultural Council grant of \$2000.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

We discussed coverage issues for some scheduled hosts who plan to be away.

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – (Alan)**

Del asked if we had looked at connecting with Emily M. – she may have returned to school. (She had been working on a museum operational manual.)

Lindsey S. has been helping to host at the museum.

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

Alan was asked to prepare a handout to accompany the Uniform Display.

Connie and Collette found a large easel as well as more manikins for the Uniform Display.

Debbie is starting a display drawer for kitchen items.

Mary Olsson would like to hang family photos from our collection (such as the Rays). She also suggested we should put up a sign to indicate what is in the drawers.

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

No news.

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

Mary O will do publicity with the Franklin News.

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

Del says we should provide suggestions to Bob on what to add to the museum's website. Debbie suggested linking it to the main town website.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Herb Hunter has graciously donated his time and effort to help the FFHM submit the proper tax forms for 2010.

Correspondence (see other sections)

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests

87 Grove St. – Bryan unearthed a copy of a property survey prepared in 1970 by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

93 Washington St. – Del received a phone inquiry from a relative of the owner of this property about how the demolition request process works. He provided them with information about the application process.

Research Requests – None

New Business

Attending tonight's meeting was Town Administrator Jeff Nutting. He and we discussed the following items:

- Jeff urged us to submit, by the end of November, a budget for items we need
- The status of the Old South Meeting House (formerly the Horace Mann Museum).
 - Jeff has had many discussions with the Federated Church about the property.
 - The Federated Church originally deeded the building to the town.
 - The property is not currently zoned.
 - To make the property available to the Federated Church or to a buyer, the Historical Commission would need to agree to a deed restriction to preserve building's character. (An example: the old fire station in W. Medway, which has been converted to a home but its historical character has been retained.)
 - Jeff is anxious to protect the property but is concerned about ongoing cost and liability. He asked the Historical Commission to come up with some suggestions for uses for the structure, within a few months if possible, that might allow progress.
 - According to the official Engineering Report of the structure, the building's sill has termites. Jeff said that the Town can enlist the help of county prisoners to do painting and other maintenance, as they have in the past.
 - A non-profit use would be exempt from zoning requirements
 - Jeff agreed to provide the Historical Commission with a copy of the engineering report. The Historical Commission is welcome to seek other opinions or estimates of repair costs
- Regarding the Franklin Historical Museum, concerns about security were expressed. Jeff recommended seeking a security camera in budget.

Alan brought up the subject of the commemorative cane that is presented to the Town's oldest resident.

Alan suggested that the Commission sponsor an annual award to the citizen who has done the most to further the study of Franklin's history.

Alan discussed the status of the whereabouts of the DVD of Dean College's Centennial celebration (1965).

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