



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes September 20, 2011

Attending:

Commissioners

Present:

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

Absent:

Bob Percy (Secretary)

Associates

Colette Ferguson
Connie Lawson
Mary O'Neill

Absent:

Eamon McCarthy Earls
Kai Olsson

Key:

→ = an action item

A→ = a resolved action item

Finances

No bills were received or paid this month.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved as amended. Bob to repost August minutes to Hist Comm website.

Commission Membership

Nothing pending.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Bob wrote a thank you letter to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Carbone for their donation of the two large World War II era model airplanes: the P40 (Tiger Shark) and the P47 (Thunderbolt), and also for their donation of a Brownie camera.

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

We discussed digitizing, and filing by street, copies of surveys. Over 30 years, various properties have been evaluated by the Historical Commission. Having this organized would allow members to add more surveys to this collection.

Gregory Stahl, Chairperson of the Wrentham Historical Commission, has offered access to an early 1700 Norfolk map that includes the region that is now Franklin. This was obtained in sections from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to copy, edit the larger image and make one print. He has offered a copy of the digital image. The Wrentham Historical Museum has recently opened in the old school building on 140 near the common. Have we offered our museum brochure there for handout?

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

The Harvest Festival (Oct. 2nd)

- Antique cars will return to be at this year's Harvest Festival, but Bay State Auto club has big show on same day. Also, the Methodist church is having services at same time. Debbie will contact them to coordinate.
- Last year we did a bake sale, and netted \$200. Mary Olsson suggested instead that we ask for donations for donuts and cider, which we have usually provided free instead of getting everyone to bake. Agreed. Mary will purchase donuts and cider. Festival runs 11-4, Del has volunteered to come in and Debbie will also be on site.
- Passports (issued for the Festival by the downtown partnership) Del suggested that we come up with a stamp or something similar.
- Others are invited to come to help out that Sunday
- We agreed to donate a Ben Franklin statue bank for the event.
- People asked if Kai could play at the Museum during the festival.

Marlene has been in touch with members of the Clark family. Their relative was killed in WWI, and Clark Square was named in his honor. Someone has some data about WWI veterans from Franklin. There are 7 squares in town named for WWI veterans.

Regarding the planned uniform display -- Collette and Connie feel there may not be enough uniforms yet. We may need to invite people to loan or donate. This will be done during Oct.

The Molloy family graciously donated military medals and a 1929 year book and other military memorabilia to the Museum.

Vietnam Veteran photo Board -- Marlene will ask her husband Bob to come up with framing idea for that piece.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Marlene reported on her Horace Mann project. Academics are interested but no one wants to be on the committee. Her contact at BU would like to be involved.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

No news.

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – (Alan)**

Returning intern Emily Mann is working on a museum operational manual that can be used to provide the guidelines for our museum policies and procedures. Among other topics, would like it to include information about:

- Hosting
- How to operate various document preservation machines
- How to file things
- How to import records

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

The focus is on the display of military uniforms. We are working on obtaining male manikins.

We discussed rotating some items downstairs, to make room for the seasonal displays we want to provide, perhaps near where the display cabinet with the hats sits.

Other ideas for rotating displays: horse drawn cabinets.

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

We have paid \$155.28 to Video Archives Unlimited to convert the 1965 Dean centennial film from to DVD.

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

No news.

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

Thanks to Bob for helping to set up the external website. Bob is open to suggestions for how to augment and enhance the site.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Herb Hunter is helping us prepare the necessary documentation for reporting purposes.

Correspondence (see other sections)

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests

Nu-Style building on Grove St. We have been informed that the Town or the EPA may hire someone to look into this property. EPA mentioned wanting to put the site on the National Historic Register. Given the poor condition of the site, they have been asked to reconsider.

Research Requests – None

New Business

- Attending tonight's meeting was Dean student Donald "Rick" Sheehan from Exeter, RI, a history major. He wants to pursue a career as a researcher, historian, or teacher. He wants to do an idea we discussed in the Spring of making a presentation at end of semester at the museum, possibly on Stanley Chilson or Horace Mann. He says there is a junior at Dean who may follow him next year. Dean is now expanding its BA program so there could be student(s) every year.
- Regarding our oral history project, Mary Olsson reported that a brother and sister visited the Museum. They knew so many people. How do we capture that information?

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