

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2017, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Jeremy Ball, Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy, Richard Remillard

Absent: None

Visiting: Kai Olsson, Debbie Pellegri

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - From the meeting on January 12, 2017. Approved as amended (7-0).

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. PRESENTATIONS - None.

E. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - None.

F. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM) - Debbie P.

1. Have ~\$8700. from donations and gift shop proceeds.
2. A check for \$1900. will arrive from the Franklin Cultural Council to fund the new display screen. Much discussion as to who will receive it and how it will be dispensed to Almont Green. Debbie received another check from Almont Green (\$125.) from the open house at his studios in Medway last Fall. Debbie will dispense a check to him (\$2000.) that combines these two checks.

G. DISCUSSION/VOTE - None.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Getting Started Guide (Bob) - Still making progress. Debbie asked if we could make an inventory list/report available on the upstairs computers for public use.
2. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - Roughly \$470. remaining in the Commission's account.

I. EVENTS

1. Susan Elliot's fine display for Black History Month is up. It has generated interest on the Facebook page and at the Museum.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Schedule of Events - Mary went over them. The next one: the Town's Birthday. The FFHM will reimburse us for cake, drinks, and \$100. drawing prize.
2. National Register signs for the downtown - in progress. Jeremy is working with Stacy from the Franklin Cultural Council.
3. The Museum's Display Screen (see Section F.)
4. Proceeds from Almont Green's Open House (see Section F.)
5. Eagle Scout Project - Mary plans to meet with Sal Backus on Feb. 19th.
6. Shelving for upstairs room - Remy is in touch with John Rondo about this. Mary mentioned the need for shelving in the basement workroom too.
7. Proposed change to Demolition By-law - Jeremy will look into submitting it to the Town Council.
8. One-year Expiration of Demolition Approvals? - This isn't part of our current bylaw. Newton, MA guidelines extend the demolition delay by restarting the one-year delay clock if the property changes hands.
9. Mary wrote to Steven M. Diamond (now at Univ. of Miami, FL) requesting a copy of his 1970s thesis on the Town of Franklin. No reply yet.

10. Native American Corner - much progress. Jeremy has some research to add on the Trowbridge family (piano makers). There's also a pamphlet one can download from the web.
11. Senior Center display of veterans' pictures (Colette) - The new wall space on the 2nd floor there will be available on Mar. 26th. Working on devising the best way to allow visitors to identify the faces they see.
12. Possible need for Museum steeple painting - Not feasible in this tight timeframe (before the statue dedication on May 7th).

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Kai had asked if there were a way to determine how many visitors we get on our Facebook page and Museum website. The answer is Yes. Mary brought print outs showing that in Facebook (under **Insights**) one can display number of page views (actively opens a post), number of people reached, and post engagements (a total of all clicks, likes, comments, and discussions). Examples: for the week of Feb 7 thru Feb 13, there were 37 page views, 665 people reached, and 1,106 post engagements.
2. There's a meeting later this week for the Cultural District Planning group. Mary plans to attend; others are welcome.
3. Some statistics on the 2017 calendars: We ordered 200. Total cost was \$380. We've sold under 100. Proceeds so far: \$430.

L. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - None

M. ADJOURN - Voted 7-0 to adjourn.