Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2020

Commission Members present: Colette Ferguson, Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani, Randy LaRosa, Richard Remillard, Mary Olsson

Associate Members: Alan Earls, Kai Olsson

Minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting were approved with one spelling correction of Rebecca’s last name ‘Finnigan’

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: Congratulations and welcome to new commission member Randy LaRosa

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FRIENDS FHM: No members present

DISCUSSION/VOTE: We continued to review the Policy and Procedure manual. We reviewed the new Disaster Management section. Should phone numbers for Facilities department be included, or should a sign with emergency numbers be posted in the museum. The commission will have a final review and vote at our next meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Treasurer’s Report: Phyllis reported that our balance is $3,042.76
* Archivist Report: Rebecca was not able to make the meeting. She answered a number of questions from our last meeting via email which will be included with the minutes.
* Demolition Delay: We will table this for the time being while we focus on CPA which is in the works to be included on the November ballot.

EVENTS:

* Second Sunday Speaker Series – January presentation by Chris Woolf on Russian Influence in the American Revolution was well attended and very interesting. Printed schedules of the SSSS are available in the museum.
* The Cultural Council Grant Reception is scheduled for Thursday February 27th.
* The Town’s Birthday Celebration is scheduled for Sunday March 1st. Mary to get list of March 2nd birthdays from Town Clerk’s office, invitations, stamps and $100 for drawing.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Jim Johnston donation: There was much discussion on the donation, space, room, gift shop, use of kitchen, etc. A meeting is scheduled on Saturday 2/22/20 with Jamie Hellen, Rebecca, members of the commission, members of FFHM, TC Chair Tom Mercer and Jim Johnston, to further discuss the donation and gift shop move.
* Museum/Commission Stationary – Mary emailed the logo to Tri County. The school is on vacation. Will wait to hear back on proofs.
* Basement cleanout update – to be discussed at 2/22 meeting?
* Volunteer meeting: No date has been set. We will need more volunteers for hosting once we start our Thursday night hours.
* Fire Wagon – the wagon has been removed by members of the fire department, it is now at the fire station. They will be renovating it for display at the fire station.

NEW BUSINESS:

* CPA – waiting to see if the TC will vote to put it on the November ballot. It was not on their agenda for this evening. Nice turn out by the commission at the 2/5/20 TC meeting for discussion and presentation of the CPA
* Letter to town administrator re discarding of items was edited and will be sent.
* The American Legion would like to borrow the items, logo, etc. that we have for their display at the town hall.
* Mary to include request for donations to Franklin Food Pantry during SSSS. The request will be added to the printed schedule and included in publicity.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

We have been made aware of 250 glass plate negatives by a local photographer from the early 1900s that will go up for auction at Coyle Auction House Tuesday February 28th. Mary confirmed with Jamie that Commission money cannot be used for this purpose. It was agreed to ask the FFHM for money to be able to secure the purchase. It is estimated that they could cost between $1000-$2000. Mary will ask the Friends.

* The podium has been repaired – thank you Alan.
* Phyllis switched out the Veterans pictures at the Senior Center.
* We should consider a CPA display here at the museum to get the word out.
* Alan attended a seminar on the Cape for the Mass Historical Commission- Mass Preservation Project Grant which funds up to $8 Mil per year (he wasn't sure about that total amount). Typically about 50-60 applicants a year and about 20 get funds. Grants are typically in the tens of thousands of dollars range (below $100k) and can be used for a wide variety of things.
* The speaker at the conference noted that, contrary to popular believe, structures on the National Register are not automatically protected. They can be torn down by the owner or modified unless a historical commission works with the owner to create a preservation restriction, which is much more complex.
* He also mentioned, for sons of veterans in town, he is working with American Legion post to start "Sons of the American Legion" squadron.  Vicki at library is continuing to investigate archive software that could be shared with the museum and is interested in starting a town-wide digitization project.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:36PM