Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes March 17, 2021

Due to Covid restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom

Commission Members Present: Richard Remillard, Randy LaRosa, Colette Ferguson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Paul Pisani (by phone)

FFHM rep: Paula Vozella

Minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: 806 letters went out in February soliciting donations and the Friends have already received $2000 in donations as a result. They have scheduled their annual meeting for Sunday April 11 and are wondering if there will be a representative from the Commission attending.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: Phyllis reported no changes, $3938 budget balance.
* CPA: The committee is being set up, Chris Foley, Chair; David McNeil Vice Chair; Monique Doyle, Clerk. Training classes scheduled for once a month.
* ARCHIVIST update:
  + Exhibits: The Women in Franklin exhibit is now up. Come by the Museum to learn about the women that have made the Town go round. And, if anyone can think of anyone else to add, please let me know. The Franklin Timeline has also been redone in order to make it more appropriate for today’s political climate, some words have been changed, facts added, and some taken away. If anyone has any more fun facts about the Town that should be added, please let me know! Moving forward, the plan is to rearrange the items in the cases below the Timeline so that they match the facts being presented above them.
  + Federal Parlor Room: Franklin TV filmed a tour of the federal parlor room with Jim Johnston recently. It is now up on the Town’s YouTube page and can be found here. It is very informative and worth a watch if you haven’t seen it yet.
  + Visitors Stats: Our visitor rate for January 2021 is up 230% from January 2020 (from 10 to 23). February 2021 is down substantially from February 2020 due to a special event last year that we were unable to host this year because of COVID-19.
  + Air Purifiers: The Facilities Department has dropped off several air purifiers for the Museum. They clean everything out of the air and make us all safer. There is one in the library, one in the front by the contact tracing table, and one by the podium behind the Brick School model. Simply press the power button when you get the Museum on Sundays and then turn them off again when you leave.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Johnston Room: We discussed a better way to view the room other than actually going into the room. There is concern that the items are to valuable and the limited space could cause problems with people in and out of the room. Full glass doors were discussed. Rich Remillard will contact a glass company for ideas and quotes.
* Covid attendance restrictions – Mary to check with Rebecca to see if there are any changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Reopening plans were discussed. No date can be set for a full reopening until Covid restrictions are lifted. We would like to start Second Sunday Speaker Series events as soon as possible. Eventually we will get back to our regular events.
* The Cultural District has scheduled a June 11 ARTWALK Celebration. Mary is working with the committee on how best the Museum can participate. There has been discussion of live music outside on the front lawn, possibly under a tent. More to follow.
* Franklin Downtown Partnership is planning a Ladybug Trail that will encourage people to walk the downtown streetscape from the Town Common to the Library, Dean, Main Street, the Museum and the Horace Mann Statue. Mary is working with the committee on details. A launch date has not yet been set.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* Mary received a call from Joe Landry who would like to donate a desk that belonged to Franklin Physician, Dr. Abbott. Arrangements will be made with Rebecca.
* Mary received a hard copy of the proof of the plaque for the Thomson Press Building which will be donated to the museum.
* Colette to contact Rebecca to ask if there are any Display Committee Meeting Dates.
* Colette read the Food Pantry letter acknowledging the $100 donation Commission Members made in memory of former long time member Alice Vendetti. Alice’s family was notified of the donation.
* Phyllis has a student volunteer from St. Marys that will be sharing hosting duties with Brock on March 28th
* Randy asked about the alarm code, Mary will send the info.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.