Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes, Sept 16, 2020

Commission Members Present: Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani, Randy LaRosa, Colette Ferguson, Mary Olsson

FFHM rep Paula Vozella

Guests: Brad Chaffee, Rob Marcalow, Elizabeth Ranieri

Minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting were approved.

Paula asked for clarification on the books donated Dr. Maki : The title of the book is Men of Franklin, and they are in the gift shop.

Paula also asked for clarification of Brock’s question regarding sponsorship money for potential purchases. Paula said the FFHM had approved $200 towards purchases, no questions asked, in the Friends January budget meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: Brad Chaffee, Rob Marcalow & Elizabeth Ranieri presented their plans for 94 East Central Street. Rob introduced the project. Rob spoke on the architectural details, showing various slides of the plans. Elizabeth talked about how the project wanted to respect the town of Franklin and its history by ensuring adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The home at 94 East Central is known as the Lewis R Whittaker home, on the historic register. The home would be repurposed and used along with a an additional building beside it, and condo units behind the two structures, similar to the ones previously built in the lots abutting. The three presenters took questions and heard statements from the commission

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM: Paula reported for the Friends, but did not have a treasury total to report. The Friends are planning to have all new items in the gift shop including lady bug items. They are awaiting new shelves. Colette and Phyllis indicated they saw the shelves in the gift shop today. The Friends will be selling two ornaments this year, the Water Trough in the center of town, and the Library. They will be $18 each. They are planning a weekend where they can sell the ornaments from the front porch, since the museum is still closed. They will let us know when a date is confirmed. There will be a drive through system set up for the sale. Paula asked that an ad or promotion be put on the FB page as well as the website. Mary will take care of that. Paula also indicated there will be no fundraising letter for this year.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE: None

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Treasurer’s report: $4,000 for the new fiscal year and $500 grant from Middlesex Bank.
* Archivist Report – Rebecca was not able to attend but submitted a summary of her progress that included the backlog of archiving, the Jim Johnston donation, the new Gift Shop, storage space, social distancing protocols, and a new election exhibit. A copy of Rebecca’s report will be submitted as part of these minutes.

EVENTS:

* Second Sunday Speaker Series – cancelled until further notice due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Jim Johnston donation – work is being done the make the front room ready for the generous donation of Jim Johnston. No date has been set for the completion of the installation.
* Stationary – with Tri County being closed, Mary will find another source for printing.
* CPA Update: CPA has been approved to be on the ballot in November. Members of the Commission are volunteering on the CPA committee to promote the program to the public.
* The “Mini Franklin Event’ on the Common planned by the Library had to be cancelled due to Covid.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS:

* The museum remains closed due to Covid 19, with all programs on hold indefinitely. We will follow the lead and advice of the town administrator regarding the re-opening of the museum.
* Phyllis and Colette decorated the front of the museum with Fall décor. They asked that the bunting be removed. Mary will contact the DPW to have the bunting taken down.
* We discussed having our 3rd annual Scarecrow Contest, but with the museum still being closed, we have decided not to do it this year. We will find a way to recognize our young winner, Ben, from the previous two years.
* Paula asked about the possibility of live streaming tours. Mary agreed to check with Franklin TV

There being no further business, a motion was approved to adjourn the meeting. 8:16PM