Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes January 13, 2021

Due to Covid restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom

Commission Members Present: Richard Remilard, Randy LaRosa, Brock Leiendecker, Paul Pisani, Colette Ferguson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson

FFHM rep: Paula Vozella

Minutes of the November 2020 were accepted.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: 485 Union Street, Narducci home.

Brock presented an informative and comprehensive report on the home Request unanimously approved.

FFHM Report. The Friends are postponing their annual meeting. They will have a February donation letter. They spent $4000 on new items for the gift shop. $2500 on ornaments. They are thinking Franklin TV might be able to highlight the gift shop. Rose Turcot donated post cards of her Gables of Franklin. Asked that the mug be featured in the February publicity.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Phyllis reported $3938 budget balance.
* Archivist update:
  + Exhibits I will be taking the Elections in Franklin exhibit down after Inauguration Day and replacing it with a new temporary exhibit on the Women in Franklin. We have a decent amount of collections materials and photographs in the basement on women who have bettered the Town and the exhibit will pay tribute to them. Thus far, the list includes Mary Molla Diorio, Stella Kehayas Jeon, Palma DeBaggis Johnson, Lorraine Metcalf, Lydia Ray Pierce, Barbara Smith, Annie Ray Thayer, May Alden Ward, Alice Wiggin, and May Fales Willard. If anyone can think of anyone else to add, please let me know.
  + Federal Parlor Room If you have not seen Jim Johnston’s donations yet, you should stop by the Museum to see the room. It came out great! He is going to bring over another lamp to give the room more light and wants to reiterate the point that no one should be touching anything in there.
  + Visitors Stats Our visitor rate for November 2020 was up 50% from 2019 and December 2020 was up 18% from 2019. This is due, in part, to the fact that we were not open for seven months, but hopefully people stay interested and continue to come through the doors in a safe and healthy manner.
  + Temperature Checks The thermometer at the Museum has several settings. If your temperature is not 97-98 degrees, something is wrong. Either you are sick or the thermometer is on the wrong setting. If your temperature reads in the low 90s, hit the SET button to switch the thermometer back to BODY. If your temperature reads in the 30s, hold the SET button to switch the thermometer back to Fahrenheit. You will then need to check to make sure the front screen still says “BODY” and not “SURFACE TEMP.” Contact Tracing As a reminder, the contact tracing forms in the front are for visitors only. Hosts do not need to write their names in. You have already signed into the staff list in the back of the Museum.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Johnston Donation update – We plan to schedule a grand opening for the room as soon as we can after Covid.
* CPA update – The commission will put through Phyllis Malcolm as our selection as representative on the newly formed CPA committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Franklin TV did a recording of Jim Johnston new exhibit which will run on our local cable station. Ask if this can be run at the museum. Consider ropes in front of the open doors.
* The covid attendance limit remains at 10, including volunteers.
* We will not be live streaming SSSS at this time

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* Phyllis asked for the write up for the Thomson Press Building plaque, Mary will work on this.
* Colette will attend future Display Committee Mtgs. The committee will report to the commission. She has asked if there is a meeting schedule for this year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:32PM