

Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes October 13, 2021

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

Associate Members Present: Jan Prentice, Kai Olsson

Guests: George Pellegri, Kim Pellegri, 18 Coutu St.

Minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: Jan Prentice is now an official associate member

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: The request for demolition of 18 Coutu Street was discussed, and approved for demolition unanimously. Mary to notify Bldg Inspector Gus Brown.

FFHM Report: No member present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: Approx $3600 balance.
* ARCHIVIST update: from Rebecca Finnigan:
  + Update on Me I have recently received an opportunity to spend a year working in the archives at Zion National Park and will be driving out west the first week of November. I will be spending the next few weeks making sure that all of my small projects are wrapped up and also ensuring that all of the work I have done is searchable for all of you. Please let me know if you have any questions.
  + Visitors Stats Thanks to the Speaker Series last month, September was our busiest month since reopening. Hopefully, interest in the Museum continues to climb.
  + Preservation Efforts I am busy preserving our paper based materials and recording dates for our subject file collection finding aid. This is valuable information that makes a researcher’s life easier when searching for information.

The discussion continued as to where that leaves the museum. Mary indicated she would follow up with Jamie for clarification, but understands a temporary archivist will be hired until Rebecca’s confirms her future plans.

* CPC: Members of the CPC visited the museum on 9/29 and 10/1 to discuss repair and painting of the cupula, view the downstairs space where the shelving is needed, and walked through the museum. There will be public hearing in January on CPC spending.
* SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES. October event, Stephen Puleo was well attended, close to 80 people. November presentation is from the Nathan Wales photos, Vintage Franklin Homes. We are booked through March.
* EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: No meetings have been held recently. The commission decided to do an exhibit of Veteran’s names to open on Veterans Day

OLD BUSINESS:

* Faenza donation update: Display case has arrived. We need to decide on a location and design proper signage. Could we get Tri County to build a pedestal? What is available within the museum?
* Cub Scout Registration 9/18/21: Randy reports it went very well, a few parents visited the museum.
* Harvest Festival: Great turn out, good showing by members of the Red Devils. We let them know we’d love to have them back each year.
* Newcomers Club: Mary to speak at the next meeting 10/20. Mary and Colette will put together a small gift bag to give to each member to promote the museum.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Mass Memories: Paul suggested we participate in this statewide event-based participatory archiving program that documents people, places and events in Mass History through family photographs and stories. It is a collaboration with the Joseph P Healey Library @UMass Boston. We agreed to look into it for the Spring. It was brought up again that we would need a good scanner, (one that accommodates large photographs, as well as small slides) and also be allowed to scan the documents and provide a copy to the donor. We will have to follow up with IT / Tim Rapoza
* iC4k Update: Paul met with Almont and was able to upload a new folder of photos from the recent Charles Whiting presentation. Paul suggested we rotate the folders. If we add another one, remove one that is there. There are currently approximately 400 photos on display.
* Donations: Mary spoke with Jamie on behalf of the commission and it was decided that money donated by patrons will go to the commission budget rather than to the FFHM. The Friends make money through fundraising efforts, museum donations are intended for the commission/museum. Town Attorney Mark Cerel weighed in on the matter and agreed that the ‘intention’ of a donation is to the museum.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* Colette asked for a digital copy of the museum logo so she can have stickers made for the bags for the Newcomers. Also asked if we were able to get a chair trolly from the school, but we don’t think what the school has would be the right size for the chairs we have.
* Randy said he would like to host a meeting for Boy Scout Troop 99 on the 27th. There were no objections. Randy to open and close the museum for the meeting.
* Mary said she had applied for a $1,000 Grant from the Cultural Council to help with printing costs and additional funding for SSSS if needed. The Friends allow $1,000, ½ of that was used on just one speaker. With a little more leeway, we can secure speakers at the professional level, most of whom have a speaker fee. Most speakers secured so far this year have not required a fee.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM