

Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes November 10, 2021

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

Associate Members Present: Jan Prentice, Kai Olsson

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: No member present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: $2,938 with outstanding invoices totaling approx. $1,500
* ARCHIVIST update: A temp job posting will be place by the town.
* SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES. November presentation is from the Nathan Wales photos, Vintage Franklin Homes. December is Franklin native Charles Harrington discussing his book, ‘A Contemplative Life’
* EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: The committee was originally Rebecca Finnigan, Colette Ferguson, Phyllis Malcolm, Alan Earls, Debbie Pellegri, Paula Vozella, Sandy. The group met twice but hasn’t met in a number of months. The Commission agreed that we would like to do a Bridal Dress exhibit again next summer, and a Veteran’s Exhibit in November. The following exhibits have been done over the past several months.
  + Women of Franklin
  + Franklin’s Voting History
  + Retrospective on Davis Thayer School
  + Farming photo exhibit
  + Veteran’s Exhibit

OLD BUSINESS:

* Newcomers Club: Mary met with the group and presented each with a bag of items, pamphlets, etc. from the museum.
* Veterans Exhibit is finished. Boards were printed at Allegra. Thank you to Paul who photographed some of the monuments at the common to be used on the boards. The exhibit will be up through the end of November.
* Mass Memories – we will consider this for a Spring event

NEW BUSINESS:

* Recent donations: A gentleman came in during the Harvest Fest and donated 4 stones that could be Native American artifacts. He said they were found in Franklin. We would like to get these authenticated by the Mass Archaeological Society. Randy will contact them. Mary will send Randy photos of the items.
* Alan to follow up with BPL scanning the Franklin Sentinals
* We discussed the wish list to be submitted to the FFHM. The list will be completed and approved at the December meeting. Items suggested were $1500 for SSSS budget. Laptop for Commission use, display panels to replace the ones we are currently using, Funding for refreshments for Ben Franklin B’day, Town’s B’day, Horace Mann’s B’day, Strawberry Stroll and Harvest Festival. $100 raffle prize for Town’s B’day celebration.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

* Colette to ask if Mrs. Claus is available for December 19. If so we will have a craft as well. Also, Colette said Del is home and making progress. She will set up time to meet with him to get a photograph to include in the front lobby when it is updated and repainted. Also asked for the story of how Franklin got it’s name. Mary to provide.
* Mary to ask if the repainting of the entryway can be done by the commission (Kai and Remy) Would it be possible to hire a script artist?
* Randy said the Boy Scout visit was a success with a small exhibit of historical items provided by Randy and about 20 Scouts in attendance. Randy commented on the great printing shop they have at Dean, but thinks it is only used for Dean publications and not available to outside requests.
* Jan said Ellen Newell McGrath has a farm photo to donate to the museum. She asked if there was any information on the idea of a Basil Leblanc wood carving exhibit. Paul to follow up, Mary to provide Paul with contact email.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM