Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2019

Commission members present: Colette Ferguson, Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani, Brock Leiendecker, Mary Olsson.

Commission members not present: Richard Remillard

Visitor: Debbie Pellegri, FFHM

Minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting were approved.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None – 1 commission seat open, Mary O’Neal and Randy LaRosa have expressed interest. Discussion and vote at next meeting.

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM: Debbie is concerned that the ornaments are not selling well and ideas are needed of how and where to sell them. Mary said she didn’t feel it was the responsibility of the commission and its members to sell the ornaments outside of the museum gift shop. Debbie said she would place some of the ornaments at the Senior Center, the Library, Dean. She discussed distributing flyers. It was suggested Christmas on the Common might be a good place to sell them. Debbie asked that Paula be added to the distribution list for the agendas and minutes.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Treasurer’s Report: $2700 balance
* Archivist Report: Mary & Rebecca went through the storage down stairs, Rebecca had marked items to be discarded. She had questions about the old tools. Mary will arrange to meet with Remi to go through items that have been marked, Remi has said he could use his truck but will need a dumpster. Mary will ask Jamie Hellen about the use of a dumpster at the DPW.
* Hosting Schedule: November and December are done. Phyllis will take over the hosting schedule starting in January.
* Exhibits: Colette, Phyllis and Mary will meet to discuss and plan for next year.
* Demotion delay: Brock and Mary to meet 11/24/19 to discuss further
* Policy & Procedure: Colette and Mary to meet on 11/17/19 to discuss further

EVENTS:

* Second Sunday Speaker Series –
  + November - Corrine Smith’s presentation on her Mother’s WWII letters and the research done to contact the soldiers and/or their families was very interesting.
  + December – Ken Turino from Historic New England is scheduled to do a presentation on the History of Christmas, on the 8th.
* Mary is working on the schedule for next year’s speaker series, and a schedule of events and will have it available to the FFHM before their January meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Bunting for the front of the museum will be ordered by Brutus.
* Mrs. Claus has been confirmed for December 1st from 1:30-3:30. This is the first year the Downtown Partnership is not having the Holiday Stroll, but we will continue to have Mrs. Claus make an appearance for storytime.
* Food donations for the Franklin Food Pantry will continue through December 8th.
* Museum’s Acceptance/Donation Policy is part of the policy and procedure. We need to get all hosts up to speed on the proper way to fill out the form for accepting donations.
* Mary hosted a group of 2nd graders from Davis Thayer School on December 8th. The kids had a good time and had lots of questions. Mary would like to find a retired school teacher who might be interested in developing an regular education program to encourage visits from schools.
* The history department at Dean College held a reception for History majors at the museum Wednesday night October 30th. Brock and Mary met with the group and welcomed them to the museum.
* A Cub Scout pack is meeting at the museum for a tour on Monday November 18th. Mary will meet with them and Randy LaRosa has offered to attend as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

* As previously discussed, there is a plan in place to get things moving down stairs to have things removed and discarded.
* New stationary – Mary to order through Allegra. Debbie would like us to notify Bob Oliver, who had designed the previous logo, that we have approved a new design.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* The Franklin Cultural District will hold a Round Table on November 21, 7PM at the Senior Center
* The first Winter Farmer’s Market will be held at Fairmont Farms, Saturday November 23rd.
* Colette asked about Jim Johnston and where we were with his donation. Mary stated that the last scheduled visit was cancelled due to Jim’s health. Mary will follow up with an email to see about scheduling a visit to his home with Brock and Jamie.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned @ 7:10PM