

Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes Wednesday August 11, 2021

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

Associate member: Kai Olsson

Guest: Janice Prentice

Minutes of the July 9, 2021meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Jan Prentice introduced herself, and is interested in becoming an associate member.

APPOINTMENTS: The commission voted to nominate Jan Prentice as an associate member. Mary to notify Town Administrator Jamie Hellen.

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: No member of the Friends present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: We recently spent $100
* CPA: Historical tour Wednesday 29th, 4:00PM and Friday October 1 at 9AM
* ARCHIVIST update:
  + Exhibits The Davis Thayer Retrospective exhibit is doing very well! If anyone can think of anything else we have in our collection that should be added, please let me know.
  + Visitors Stats Our visitor rate for July 2021 is up from previous months! This is mostly due to the reopening event, but hopefully the trend continues into the coming months.
  + Donations Just a friendly reminder to use discretion when accepting donations. Just because someone wants to donate, does not mean we need to say yes. Donated items must fit within the scope of the Museum’s collections and must fulfill the following criteria: ➢ Materials must be from/related to Franklin in some way. ➢ Materials must be in decent physical condition. ➢ Materials must be unique items. If we already have it, don’t accept another copy. More information about donations can be found in the Museum’s Collections Management Policy. A flow chart for acceptance can be found in the Donation Book by the phone in the library of the Museum.
  + Housekeeping Please make sure to do a sweep of the Museum before you leave. This week I found several empty water bottles floating around the exhibits as well as half a cup of lemonade in the kitchen. Keeping things clean is necessary to keep bugs and other pests away from exhibits and collections
* Second Sunday Speaker Series: Events are booked through January. Next is Sept. 12, Paul Faenza speaking on first hand account at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks. Mary to share schedule and have flyers printed
* Exhibit Committee: Agreed to have temporary exhibit of Whiting and Davis Collection displayed for a bit longer. Timing TBD. The Davis Thayer retrospective is due to run through the end of August.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Update of approved purchases: No laptop, town says no for the moment. But Paul has purchased a new Canon Camera.
* Faenza donation: will be made at the time of the presentation on 9/12. A special case has been ordered from Gaylord to permanently display the shoes.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Boston Public Library can scan Sentinels for free. Alan to follow up
* Boy Scouts registration on the front porch Saturday September 18th, Randy to host.
* Harvest Festival October 2nd – discuss details at next meeting, but will participate as we always have.
* Annual Town Report due August 31st, Mary to write and submit
* A couple who recently visited the museum from Maryland said we should tell the story of the town being named after Ben Franklin.
* Wrentham Cable 8 to record all of our Second Sunday Speaker presentations.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* Remy to find out about a stone slab off of Lincoln street, part of the original bridge?

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40