



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2023

Commission Members Present: Jan Prentice, Randy LaRosa, Alan Earls, Paul Pisani, Scott Mason, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson
Associate Members: William Lee

Minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: We have received a request for the demolition of the Carriage House located at 201 Main Street (former Hayward Estate) A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday February 22, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Museum.

FFHM Report: No representative from the FFHM present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **TREASURER:** We have spent \$350 in the past month, \$176 for legal notices for Demo Request
- **ARCHIVIST update:** Rowan was unable to make the meeting but sent the following update ... -Next Thursday, I was invited to share a few remarks at the Dean Founder's Day reception, alongside Dean's archivist. For the most part, I will be sharing the importance of working alongside our community partners to preserve and share aspects of the town's history, and that I am looking forward to collaborating with Dean College's History Department, Library, and Archives in this regard.
-I am also progressing in processing documents, volumes, and artifacts in the basement and attic that have not yet been cataloged. The resulting list will be rather surface-level, but once it is completed and the materials are better organized, I will be working on further levels of description and finding aids. I will keep the Commission apprised of the progress, and any existing finding aids can be found on the Museum Google Drive.
- **Second Sunday Speaker Series** – Rob Lawson has had to cancel his presentation for this weekend due to the death of his Mother. He would like to reschedule for later in the year. Mary is scheduled to present A History of Franklin Written in Stone – Stories from the Union Street Cemetery on March 12. There will be no presentation in April, the museum will be closed for the Easter Holiday.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bell at Old South Meeting House – No timeline has been established yet. Alan suggests we put forth ideas as to where it should go. One idea is on the Common, with a tower like structure that could allow the bell to be used/rung on special occasions.
- Local Historic Districts – Check with Jamie. We would like to have a representative from the Commission on any committee that might be established.
- FFHM Wish List – Mary will submit the list to Paula before the 2/19 FFHM annual meeting. Paul suggested adding a film scanner for slides and negatives to the list.
- Silent Saturdays – Mary asked Alan to have the films at the museum in advance, just in case. But Alan plans to host both Saturdays.
- Boston Cane was presented to our oldest citizen Marilyn Spencer by Town Clerk Nancy Danello. Marilyn is 101 years old.
- Exhibit Committee: Check with Rowan. She had mentioned Jamie would like to get this started again. Randy and Alan would both be interested in being on the committee.
- Cub Scout pack to meet at the Museum Monday night at 6:30 Randy will host. Alan, Paul and Scott will meet at the museum after the meeting, 7:30, to move the train exhibit upstairs.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

- Alan proposed language to add to the Master Plan in Historic Resources, after the second paragraph, above Goals and Objectives, INSERT
... “However, many other important historic and cultural documents and artifacts are believed to still exist in the hand of institutions such as churches and civic groups and perhaps town departments, and should be identified, catalogued and digitized where feasible through a cooperative effort encouraged or led by the town. Efforts to secure grant money for this effort should be led by the town.”
Mary to inquire as to who is on the Master Plan Committee.
- Phyllis – there is a CPC hearing coming up. Alan brought up possibly using CPA money to secure and possibly move Jim Johnston’s house, Phyllis stated Jamie said “That’s not going to happen”. Although no formal proposal has been put forth yet. Phyllis also stated the plan is to have the cupola on the museum come down this summer to be repainted. Also, there has been a delay with the restorations at the Brick School. No further information provided.
- Jan – There was a birthday celebration for Ben Franklin at the Library (January?). She is going ahead with the plans for an exhibit of Dean artifacts to run the weekends of Commencement weekend in May and Parents weekend in the Fall.
- Randy – Has secured the Greenwich Bay Brass, a 10-12 piece band, to play on the front porch for the Strawberry Festival, Friday June 9th from 4pm to 8pm. The museum will have special hours that evening. Paul and Phyllis suggested we serve popcorn again. One of the lights is out on the front porch and needs to be replaced.

- Alan brought up the Art Association's plan to paint the downtown area utility boxes. Mary to ask Lisa Piana what happened to the idea of having historic photos wrapped around the boxes.
- Alan brought in a draft proposal for defining host and docent roles. Mary will distribute with the meeting minutes and add it to next month's agenda under new business.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM