



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes July 12, 2023

Commission Members Present: Alan Earls, Paul Pisani, Phyllis Malcolm, Jan Prentice, Mary Olsson.

Associate Member: Will Lee

Minutes of the June 14, 2023 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: No members present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **TREASURER:** We have started our new fiscal year budget
- **ARCHIVIST**
- **Second Sunday Speaker Series:** Jim Johnson spoke in July, we had a good crowd of about 50 people. Alan Earls will present – Massachusetts, the Library State in August.
- **Exhibit Committee:** Randy & Alan met with Rev. Junker and are working on a November 12 concert and presentation in conjunction with the Methodist church on pipe organs. The exhibit committee consists of Rowan, Alan, Randy, Paula and Sandy. Is there a scheduled meeting plan?

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Local historic districts** – in a recent discussion with Jamie it was agreed that cataloging old homes in town would be a good start to finding out the historic value of what is in town. Mary and Alan will formulate a plan for this.
- **Master Plan** – tabled
- **Demolition Delay Update:** Mary asked that everyone familiarize themselves with the demo delay bylaws and consider that it is one of the most important responsibilities of the Commission. Any suggestions for changes or updates should be discussed to submit to Jamie by September.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Charles Partridge Adams Art Donation:** We received an email stating that artwork from Franklin native Charles Partridge Adams might be available. Alan is following up on it. We are trying to determine if it is original art or prints. Alan had previously done a write up in Hometown History.
- **Ben Franklin/Gordon Letter Press donation for consideration:** It was determined that it had no historical connection to the town of Franklin and would be too large to accept. We

will suggest the donor contact the Antiquarian Society in Worcester or the Printing Museum in Haverhill.

- Veterans of the American Revolution research: We had an inquiry about American Revolution soldiers from Franklin/Wrentham. Our research doesn't currently go back that far. Is this something we should pursue? Possibly some information in Blake's History
- Vintage home research – we will organize and start this initiative and hope that all members of the commission take part. This would also be a good project for volunteers.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Jan: Wrentham Historic Commission is presenting Local Historic District Education.

A woman from the Historical Society in Medway recently visited the museum

Alan: Has proposed a letter to the Arch Dioceses of Boston regarding the importance and significance of the Carriage House from the former Hayward Estate, due to be demolished.

Alan suggested possible future exhibits: 1950's Franklin; When 495 came to Franklin.

If we are interested in aerial photos of Franklin, UMass Amherst may have them.

The design review committee has a new chair, Sam Williams. They hold their meetings via zoom. Interested member should consider attending their meetings and we might consider inviting Same to speak at one of our meetings.

Paul: Visited the Humphrey House in Plainville and met with commission chair Kristine Moore.

Had a 1976 Handout: Pieces of Plainville History. Saw how they use their iC4k.

Recently met the grandson of museum founder Herman Duval (Chelotti)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:59PM