



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023, 6:30 pm

Commission Members Present: Jan Prentice, Alan Earls, Paul Pisani, Mary Olsson, Phyllis Malcolm, Randy LaRosa
Associate Member: Will Lee
Rowan Lowell – Archivist

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: No members present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **TREASURER:** Phyllis reported no spending in the period, and \$43 expense was submitted to town
- **ARCHIVIST Update:** Rowan Lowell – Basement shelving is priority, $\frac{1}{4}$ of basement floor has been cleared in preparation, working to clear off another $\frac{1}{4}$ and hope to get facilities department in to do shelving. May need help but can probably get it from DPW.
- **SSS:** Ed Goddard and a colleague from Wrentham 350 will be presenting in November.
- **CPC Report:** Phyllis reported that the Schmidt farm project was main focus and no meetings are scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Dean homecoming:** Jan reported no visitors on Sunday and only a few on Saturday, during the rain. She suggested if the display is staged again in 2024, the museum should extend its hours to better fit activities at Dean. Mary questioned whether it would work without a specific activity to attract people. Jan noted the very poor weather and suggested it could be successful over time.
- **Archaeology weekend wrap up:** Alan reported on attendance for both CCC talk at State Forest and lecture on Sunday. Both attracted significant attendance. Both presenters are willing to do again and person from Public Archaeology Lab is willing to help come and curate the items we have in collection.
- **Circa sign program for homes (dated plaques for homes):** Mary suggested putting on hold for now.
- **Cultural District Commission Meeting held at Museum:** Mary noted that she, Kai, and Alan were in attendance. Tina Powderly from Food Pantry made a presentation. CDC would welcome us at their meetings and may take advantage of museum as meeting space again in future.

- Upcoming Wednesday is Dean History event. Need to make sure chairs are set up. Not doing displays this year so don't need as much time. It begins at 6:30 but they will want to get in sooner. Speaker is Jeff Roy and President Elmore is coming. Dean is very interested in collaborating.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mary will speak with Tom Mercer about officer selection. Each person must be nominated, may reach out to each member to assess interest in some of the positions....Mary will ask someone to nominate Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Secretary post could be an associate...Phyllis willing to continue as treasurer
- Holiday Cards: Mary has stationery and note cards and asks whether it make sense for us to send greetings from Commission to people in the town hall or Jamie's office or Town Council. If we do...maybe we could all sign 12-15 cards?
- Halloween event next year: Mary noted that Methodist Church did trunk or treat on Halloween night, perhaps museum could do same thing or maybe a haunted house with help from Rotary or Downtown partnership. It was also noted that Dr. Lawson's cemetery tour on Halloween will start at the cemetery, not the museum, due to number of attendees with walking challenges.
- Barbara Smith donation: Mary was contacted by a relative of Barbara who has some of her notes and records, her only living relative in NH. Hope to receive some of the material. [Rowan noted that she has Barbara's handwritten notes some photocopies, much of which is research on houses and properties in town and she believes Rebecca made a finding aid.]
- Franklin Train Town: Scott will open exhibit on Sat., Dec. 2, and will run into first couple of weeks of January. He will need help that Friday taking the pieces upstairs down and getting that set up. DPW will help. Rowan can stay later.
- Requested maintenance: Rowan will ask Kevin Hearn of facilities regarding on light, door, and insulation on door.
- Schmidt family dropped off some items associated with the site on last Saturday, including an early mechanical vacuum cleaner!
- Mary hopes we can ask for more photos and/or property records
- Rosetti wedding dress donation – need to respond to family with a yes or no
- Old South: What is status? Is Habitat for Humanity actually maintaining building? What are details of historic preservation agreement?
- Mrs. Claus is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 26.
- What is status of Boston Cane? Mary will check
- With no further business, Randy motioned for adjournment, Alan seconded and all voted in favor at 7:23.