

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2018

Commissioners Present: Mary Olsson, Phyllis Malcolm, Colette Ferguson, Bob Percy, Paul Pisani, Jeremy Ball

Associate Members Present: Kai Olsson

Absent: Richard Remillard

Visiting: None

A. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- a. Mary called the meeting to order at 6:35

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from the June 12th meeting were accepted with three minor corrections on a 6-0 vote.

C. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None

D. APPOINTMENTS – Paul Pisani has officially been sworn in as a full member

E. PRESENTATIONS – None

F. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – None, although Mary Received one for 834-836 West Central Street on Friday (after Agenda had been submitted)

G. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM) – Funds balance ~\$8300; added \$45 in donations and gift store proceeds

H. DISCUSSION /VOTE – None

I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis Malcolm) –
 - i. \$4000 received from Town,
 - ii. \$3000 received earmarked for personal services
 - iii. Jeff asked Mary to call, re: budget
 - iv. Spent \$500 on replacement glass for case & piano tuning
- b. Active subcommittees
 - i. Hosting schedule – Mary
 - ii. Volunteer training, scheduling, and coordination – tbd; need a volunteer meeting once per year to handle feedback and miscellaneous
 - iii. Events & scheduling – all to contribute and attend, where possible
 - iv. Event preparation and display – Colette & Phyllis
 - v. Accessioning donations into PastPerfect – Jeremy & Kai, who will also need to work on prioritizing & storing new artifacts; Bob to send manual(s)
 - vi. Monthly publicity – Mary
 - vii. Social media – Mary
 - viii. Downtown Partnership – Phyllis
 - ix. Cultural District – Kai
 - 1. The Franklin Cultural District is tied to the Massachusetts Tourism Board, and the Franklin Cultural Council is tied to the Massachusetts Cultural Council (Stacey David); should FHM be tied to the Massachusetts Historical Council?

J. EVENTS –

- a. The next event on the schedule is:
 - i. 8/12 – Maureen Taylor, photo detective (Sponsored by FFHM)
- b. Upcoming events:
 - i. Second Sunday speakers

1. September – Joe Landry (?)
2. October – King Phillip’s War (?) - Mike Tougias
3. November – Dedication of Common Walkway – Alan Earls
4. December – second half of James Johnston presentation
- ii. Harvest Festival – October 13th
 1. Entertainment?
 2. Farming exhibit, on the porch, maybe?
- iii. Holiday Stroll – December, dates tbd, but will be over course of three days; next meeting in September
- c. Events Subcommittee to meet in November to schedule events for 2019

K. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Recent events were:
 - i. 7/14 – Second Sunday Speaker Series #5 with Mary Olsson – “Something Borrowed, Something Blue: wedding traditions and superstitions” – this went ‘fairly well’, with 25-30 guests in attendance
- b. New Logo for Museum – will discuss this in August for a September target date (Kai)
- c. Second Sunday Speaker Series – Mary still working on booking speakers for September and October
- d. Sign for the former Horace Mann School location – No progress (Jeremy)
- e. Museum website – still a work in progress. Haven’t yet repointed the URL to the new content. (Mary & Bob)
- f. Digital Commonwealth scanning – Bob renewed membership and is identifying more Sentinels to send for scanning
- g. Proposed change to demo delay bylaw – Jeremy will schedule a meeting with Gus and Bryan Taberner to discuss, targeting week before FHC meeting in August, no earlier than 4:30.
- h. The Thompson Press building will be coming down “soon” –the Thompson Press’ logo sign has been donated (to be part of a potential sign exhibit).
- i. Hayward Mansion Carriage House at the intersection of Queen and Pleasant streets –Jeremy spoke with Faith Flaherty, who confirmed that there are no current plans for renovation; the church was curious about the process, and Ms. Flaherty has offered to allow FHC to walk through the carriage house during the Feast of St. Rocco (recommended August 9th through 11th).
- j. The FFHM (Paula) has proposed scanning parties to increase photo inventory
 - i. In a test run, three people attended, bringing wedding photos
 - ii. Try again in August, with specific request for Franklin-relevant wedding photos
 - iii. Recommended that subsequent events could/should have a theme, such as sports, veterans, etc. to tie with events
 - iv. As a note, Plainville HC does Fall and Spring scanning events
- k. Mary remarked that it is possible to connect to the iC4K via local network (one generated by the iC4K, itself); Jeremy to check this, but we will probably need to know the password. Once we are able to do this, it should be a simple matter to add/change/rotate the content, with an eye towards tie-ins to special exhibits.
- l. The \$5000 grant that was proposed by Jeff Roy has been received into the town budget, earmarked for iC4K reimbursement. This could be used in a couple of ways:
 - i. Pay back the FFHM’s contribution
 - ii. Purchase of new scanning technology (wide-bed / high-res scanner)
 - iii. Support of contractor work to get more content added

L. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Community Concerts –
 - i. A motion was raised and seconded to add a “Winter Concert Series” to the FHM offerings for 2018-2019
 - ii. Mary and Colette volunteered to lead
 - iii. Local musicians would be the focus, with concerts to be held on first Sundays of the month
 - iv. It was recommended to check with Diane Plouffe at FHS for chamber group availability October through March
 - v. Claflin Hill chamber groups may also be available
 - vi. Motion was carried on a 6-0 vote.
- b. Paul is available to help!

M. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

- a. A “Franklin Historical Museum” sign is needed for the museum, itself – add this to the Discussions/Vote for August.
- b. The Municipal Building wants to “fill a case” with Franklin objects; Phyllis and Kai to gather and install these.
- c. We should declutter and optimize the shelves in the library – better use can be made of the space!
- d. Let’s hang the military photos on the panels after the wedding dress exhibit comes down – this will get them out of the library and into public view.
- e. Need to carefully match up the dresses with their associated photos and accessories and inventory them. Also:
 - i. Mannequin inventory & cleaning
 - ii. Budget request for new mannequins – check with Dress Code for a source?
- f. Mary received a call about the Feast of St. Rocco – this will be the last year for the festival, and the organizers will be hosting a farewell party in October. Decorations for this party will be memorabilia collected over the past 40 years, and they would like to donate this to the museum. One possibility for display is that the FHM could run a small exhibit in August each year?
- g. Mary has requested that Commission members and volunteers document every hour of volunteer work (on site or off site) that is done for the FHM, including research for exhibits, conservation of artifacts, setup or takedown for exhibits, etc. in order to demonstrate a “full time equivalent” for the CAP application next year.

N. ADJOURN – There being no further business, there was a 6-0 vote to adjourn at 7:45PM