

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2018

Commissioners Present: Mary Olsson, Phyllis Malcolm, Bob Percy, Jeremy Ball

Associate Members Present: None

Absent: Colette Ferguson, Paul Pisani, Richard Remillard

Visiting: Debbie Pellegrini

A. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- a. Mary called the meeting to order at 6:50

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from the May 8th meeting were accepted as submitted with one amendment on a 4-0 vote.

C. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – None

D. APPOINTMENTS – Paul Pisani has been appointed, Mary will check that he has been sworn in.

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 \$8117; donations seem to have trailed off last month, and it was suggested that perhaps the donation container needs to be more obvious –and- more secure?

H. DISCUSSION /VOTE – None

I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer’s Report (Phyllis Malcolm) –
 - i. Have not received the budget for FY19
- b. List of active subcommittees
 - i. Mary has compiled a partial list of subcommittees:
 1. Hosting schedule
 2. Volunteer training, scheduling, and coordination
 3. Events & scheduling
 4. Event preparation and display
 5. Accessioning donations into PastPerfect
 6. Monthly publicity
 7. Social media
 8. Downtown Partnership – Phyllis
 9. Cultural District

J. EVENTS –

- a. Recent events were:
 - i. 6/8 – Strawberry Stroll
 - ii. 6/8 – Wedding dress exhibit opened
- b. The next event on the schedule is:
 - i. 7/14 – Second Sunday Speaker Series #5 with Mary Olsson – “Something Borrowed, Something Blue: wedding traditions and superstitions”

K. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Logo for Museum – Kai spoke to FCC’s Stacey David, who provided examples of the rules and publicity that they used; will discuss this in August for a September target date

- b. Second Sunday Speaker Series – Mary still working on booking speakers for September and October
- c. Sign for the former Horace Mann School location – Jeremy to work on content and coordinate with Gus, using the information at the current Franklin High School; should include photograph, small history, etc.
- d. Museum website – still a work in progress. Mary has found the password(s) and Bob and Mary will meet on the 21st to discuss next steps; they'll work with Manessa to repoint the URL to the new content.
- e. Digital Commonwealth scanning –Bob working to assemble a new package of documents to be scanned. It was requested that the 1904, 1916-17, and 1928-35 Franklin Sentinels be prioritized.
- f. Proposed change to demo delay bylaw – Jeremy will schedule a meeting with Gus and Bryan Taberner to discuss, ideally in August to include Mary, early or late in the day.
- g. The Thompson Press building will be coming down soon (commencing in June) – FHC will be given an opportunity to walk through before the building comes down. Phyllis confirms that we will be allowed to walk through on Thursday, June 14th. Phyllis will request that the Thompson Press' logo sign be saved and donated (to be part of a potential sign exhibit).
- h. Hayward Mansion Carriage House at the intersection of Queen and Pleasant streets –Jeremy to find out more about their plans in terms of renovation, and Ms. Flaherty has offered to allow FHC to walk through the carriage house during the Feast of St. Rocco (August 5th through 12th).

L. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Community Concerts – discuss for 2019, in terms of scheduling, participants, etc.

M. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- a. Mary officially recognizes and thanks Phyllis and Collette for their hard work and long hours on getting the wedding dress exhibit prepared and installed – many visitors have already admired and appreciated the display, as well! THANK YOU, PHYLLIS and COLETTE!
- 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 4-0 vote to adjourn at 7:45PM