

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2019, 6:30PM

Commissioners Present: Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani, Richard Remillard, Mary Olsson, Colette Ferguson Brock Leindecker, **Associates:** Kai Olsson

Absent: Jeremy Ball

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes from January 8, approved as amended. Note: there was no February meeting due to weather. The March meeting was delayed 1 week due to no quorum on March 12.
- B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS** - None
- C. APPOINTMENTS** - None. We welcome Brock to his first meeting as a commissioner
- D. PRESENTATIONS** - None.
- E. DEMOLITION REQUESTS** - None. Mary mentioned that we may have one coming up. She received an inquiry on the process regarding a Union Street address.
- F. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM)** No one in attendance
- G. DISCUSSION/VOTE** –
 - a. Museum Logo – on hold for review and vote in April
 - b. Johnston donation – There was much discussion and the commission decided we would like to go forward with accepting the donation for one room, dedicated to the memory of Clara Johnston. Most, if not all items are Franklin related. We do not have room to accept a second room of furniture and items, unfortunately. Mary will contact Mr. Johnston to see about moving forward.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) – We have \$3,140.50 Money to be spent by end of May.
- b. Active subcommittees
 - i. Hosting schedule (Mary) – reminder that we will be open Thursday evenings starting in April. Phyllis will take the first Thursdays of the month, starting with Thursday April 4th
 - ii. Volunteer training, scheduling, coordination (Mary) – the February meeting wasn't well attended, due to it being Super bowl Sunday. But the volunteers who were there are enthusiastic and looking forward to contributing
 - iii. Events and scheduling (Mary)– The SSSS is booked through December. ARTWEEK starts April 26th and runs through May 5th. We have two events scheduled at the museum this year.
 - iv. Event preparation and display – Colette, Phyllis and Mary will get together to plan the June exhibit. Paul is working on a mid'century tools and artifacts display for the Fall.
 - v. Accessioning donations into PastPerfect – Now being handled by our new archivist..
 - vi. Monthly publicity (Mary) - ongoing
 - vii. Social media (Mary) - ongoing.
 - viii. Downtown Partnership - The next General Meeting is Thursday April 4th. Beautification Day is May 18th. The Strawberry Stroll is set for Friday June 14th 4-8PM. We will participate, as we have in the past.
 - ix. Cultural district – The district was approved in January. A town celebration is planned for Friday May 10th. The museum will participate in the celebration with the meeting/kickoff happening here at 3:30PM

I. EVENTS -

- a. Second Sunday Speakers – The March presentation was postponed due to weather (worse up North where our speaker was traveling from) Mary will work to reschedule Benjamin Roine in the near future. Many people showed up and were disappointed that it has been cancelled for the day. The April speaker is Thomas Stohlman who will speak on the Boston Public Library

J. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Logo For Museum – To be voted on next month.
- b. Second Sunday Speakers – Mary will start to look at speakers for next year
- c. Sign for Old Horace Mann School* - sign is in place
- d. Franklin Trowbridge piano salvage (Remy and Kai) – ongoing, should we get strings?
- e. Museum website (Mary) – stuck – may have to buy new domain name. We haven't been able to get the information from Minessa regarding passwords, etc.
- f. Digital Commonwealth Scanning – to be taken over by new archivist
- g. Changes to Demo Delay Bylaw – on hold – will need update from Jeremy
- h. Scanning parties – not a lot of interest by the commission at the moment. It is important to get what we have in our collection scanned and properly archived before jumping ahead of ourselves. It was suggested we check out Mass Memories, the state comes in, provides the equipment. Massmemories.org
- i. iC4K content maintenance – Mary will meet with Almont Green the next time he is in town and get directions for adding photos. A major hurdle is the iC4K has its own network, but the town won't recognize it. Troubleshooting is needed to get around this.
- j. Rotating contents of display cases, using drawers as staging/storage - The archivist can help us with this. It's important to have things archived before we start moving them around.
- k. Siding work - ongoing. Looks like they have just one small section left to do. Grateful to the DPW for cleaning up the back entrance to the museum, which was getting a bit hazardous.

K. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. The town has hired our new archivist, Rebecca Finnigan. She has been working for a couple of weeks. She has gone through four collections; Historic Postcards, Sheet Music, Annual Reports and List of Residents. She is working on finding aids. She has created a new Deed of Gift, which the commission accepted. The commission will review and discuss the FHM Manual, that Rebecca created, at the April meeting.
- b. Mary will email Jamie regarding protocol for recognizing Bob Percy for his 18 years of service on the commission.
- c. Mary brought up the idea of signage for the front of the building with Jamie Helen. Jamie liked the idea and will bring it up with the facilities department, possibly for the Spring. Thank you to Paul for his work on a visual of what the sign might look like.
- d. Upstairs Trowbridge piano will need to be tuned and a string replaced. Colette to arrange with piano tuner we have used in the past.
- e. Stationary will be purchased once the logo is approved

L. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - None

M. ADJOURN