

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2018, 6:50 PM

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

Absent: None

Visiting: Debbie Pellegri

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from August 14th, approved as corrected.

B. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. PRESENTATIONS - None.

E. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - 834 - 836 West Central St. was discussed at the public hearing prior to this meeting

F. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM) -

a. FFHM has \$8200.

G. DISCUSSION/VOTE - None.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS -

a. Treasurer’s Report (Phyllis) – We have \$3950, nothing new to report

b. Active subcommittees

i. Hosting schedule – Mary

ii. Volunteer training, scheduling, and coordination –

1. need a volunteer meeting once per year to handle feedback and miscellaneous

2. Debbie reported that Paula had discussed scanning with a volunteer who did not know how to scan; Mary will discuss with Paula to clarify

iii. Events & scheduling

1. all to contribute and attend, where possible

2. October planning pre-meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on October 3rd

3. November follow-up meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on November 6th

iv. Event preparation and display – Colette & Phyllis

1. Harvest Festival event coming up; scarecrow contest?

v. Accessioning donations into Past Perfect – Jeremy & Kai

1. Paul, Remi, and Jeremy have been reading through Bob’s instructions and will start accessioning, targeting one night a week, where possible

2. Need to be sure to properly store accessioned materials

vi. Monthly publicity – Mary sending this out on 15th of every month

vii. Social media – Mary maintaining Facebook page

viii. Downtown Partnership – Phyllis

1. Harvest Festival is set for October 13th, rain date will be October 14th

2. Holiday Stroll will run from December 6th through 9th

a. Since it’s a multi-day event, town will not be closing streets; will need to try to wrap up before dark each night - what are the predicted hours of operation?

b. Is Mrs. Claus available for all four days? Since Simon’s will be doing pictures with Santa, coordinate to alternate days?

c. Craft day on Saturday and/or Sunday at FHM?

d. Cookies on another day, etc.?

ix. Cultural District – Kai

1. September 20th, the Mass Cultural District will be visiting Franklin
 - a. FHM will be part of the tour, and they will end their day at FHM?
 - b. Cultural Council will discuss how they collaborate at state/local level

I. EVENTS -

- a. Second Sunday Speakers – this series is going very well and is accomplishing the goal of increasing attendance, visibility, and community engagement!
 - i. Sept. 9th, Alan Earls, subject: the CCC (FDR’s Civilian Conservation Corps)
 1. About 40 people showed up to see presentation and clips from the Chilson films
 2. One visitor’s father had participated in the Becket CCC, and she shared that her father had considered it an “influential and pivotal experience” in his life, and that the men had been paid \$30 a week, of which \$25 was sent home
 - ii. October, Mike Tougias, subject: King Phillip’s War
 1. Thank you to the FFHM for sponsoring this speaker!
 - iii. November, Alan Earls, subject: Town Monuments. (This will follow the Dedication of the Veterans’ Walkway on the Common, and a subsequent reception at the Museum.)
 1. Want to change this to allow people to attend Veterans’ Walk dedication and then the reception at the Senior Center, need to move this from 11/11 to a later date
 - iv. December, James Johnston, subject: The Oliver Pond House in Context, Part II.
- b. Harvest Festival - Oct. 13th. Discussed plans to hold a scarecrow contest.
- c. Holiday Stroll - need to determine the date (either last weekend of Nov., or first weekend in Dec.)
 - i. Mary will contact Lisa to confirm dates
- d. Event Subcommittee - we’re planning to meet on the evenings October 3rd and Nov. 6th to plot the way ahead for 2019.

J. OLD BUSINESS -

- a. New Logo For Museum - Need someone to take this up and work out rules and timeline; do planning in January/February and run the contest in the spring
- b. Second Sunday speakers – will discuss at the planning meetings
- c. Sign for old Horace Mann School - In progress; sign is out for production at the same company who did the sign for the Four Corners School – thank you to the FFHM for their work on this!
- d. ‘Franklin’ Trowbridge piano – Slow progress, as the soundboard weighs 300-500lbs; will build a frame with eyebolts for anchoring points that can be used when displayed; no timeframe yet
- e. Museum Website – Mary and Bob have met and can show the content, but some work is still needed; almost ready to repoint the old site to the new content
- f. Digital Commonwealth Scanning (Bob) – Digital Commonwealth has scanned about 300 books for Franklin, to date; need to identify which volumes of the Sentinel to scan next
- g. Changes to Demo Delay Bylaw – need to schedule a follow-up meeting, especially in light of recent attention to Demolition Requests
- h. Scanning parties –
 - i. Diane and Mary helped at the bridal picture scanning party, where four or five people came in, and several submissions were received from Paula’s family
 - ii. FHM will only do scanning as scheduled events, with no “open door” policy
- i. iC4K content maintenance – Mary and Jeremy met with Almont Green, who confirmed the correct password and then walked through the processes necessary to connect to the iC4k and update the content
- j. Community Concerts – will discuss at the October and November planning meetings
- k. Annual Report – Bob has done an excellent job, as usual, in compiling the report; Mary and Bob will review and submit on September 12th

K. NEW BUSINESS -

- a. Colette met with Alice Vendetti (former chairperson of the FHC) and discussed the possibility of conducting an interview; questions will be written in advance; can we work with Franklin TV to record audio? Should we also try have an interview with Dean Fish?
- b. Paul has fixed the adding machine printer and improved the cabinet to protect the inner workings and young museum visitors' fingers!

L. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS –

- a. Jeff Nutting has requested a rendition of the proposed lettering for the FHM, Paul will work on this
- b. Building siding needs to be de-leaded (which will happen in November, hopefully) before the siding can be replaced; cupola will be addressed in the spring
- c. Internet issues have been traced back to the router, and a restart (via breaker #35) fixed the issues; volunteer guide needs to be updated with these instructions

M. ADJOURN - Voted 7-0 to adjourn, 8:08 PM.