

# Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

## Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2016

**Commissioners Present:** Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini, Bob Percy.

**Absent:** None.

**Visiting:** Jeremy Ball, Susan Elliott.

**Election of Officers.** The following were nominated and approved by 5-0 vote:

**Chair:** Mary Olsson

**Treasurer:** Phyllis Malcolm

**Clerk:** Bob Percy

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from December 8th, approved as amended (5-0).

B. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** - None.

C. **APPOINTMENTS** - None. (Approved Commission member Richard Remillard is scheduled to be approved at tomorrow's Town Council meeting.)

D. **PRESENTATIONS** — None.

**E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES**

1. Proposed demolition of Thompson National Press Building, Dean Avenue. In attendance were Attorney Richard Cornetta, Kevin Maylie, Director of Development at Fairfield Residential, John Shippee, Engineer, and Joseph Halligan, property owner of 115 and 119 Dean Ave. After reviewing the information presented, and after discussion of the state of the structures at the site, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve the demolition request. The owner agreed to allow the Commission to tour the buildings when the owner is able to take possession of the buildings in April or May 2016, and for the Commission to install, in collaboration with the history department of Fairfield Residential, a commemorative plaque that describes the history of the Snow Bassett & Co. straw goods factory, and the Thompson Press businesses that operated on this site.

**F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. PastPerfect Project (Bob) - Bob agreed to write a short description for how someone could log onto PastPerfect and search for a specific object or document, and place these directions in a visible location downstairs.
2. Audio record project (Phyllis and Mary) - Ongoing. Just need to make a list of them.
3. Digitized documents (Bob) - Mary and Bob have agreed to meet with Felicia Oti, Vicki Buchanio, and Alan Earls to discuss plans to digitize documents from the Library and the Museum.
4. Textile Preservation (Connie) - The Mass. Historical Commission gave Connie the name of a person to contact.
5. Veteran picture display — We are still waiting for feedback from Jeff DiCiccio. Mary suggested an alternative to displaying all the pictures simultaneously at the Museum, instead displaying some at the Senior Center, at Dean Bank, or at the Town Offices, on a rotating basis.

## **G. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Album Project at FHS - nothing new. (For the record - it is FHS who owns the audio equipment that was used on this project two years ago.)
2. Museum Trek - While hosting, Susan Elliott gave Tim Cook some clues for the George Metcalf exhibit.
3. Clothing Room - Colette will investigate ordering acid free boxes and paper.
4. Reference Room - ongoing. (For the record - we must assume that the contents of the filing cabinets have not been accessioned in PastPerfect.)
5. Film Project (Bob Oliver) - Nothing new. Bob plans to contact Bob O.
6. WWII Letters (Dick Holmes) - Dick's son Rick delivered his father's letters to Mary this week.
7. Dean College Intern (Susan Elliott) - Dean student Justin Edward is available to work 3 hours/wk on arranging the books that are in the vault downstairs. Colette will send her the list of those books that she and Connie had put together.
8. Accession Process (Bob) - nothing new. Bob plans to put together a brief description of the acceptable "flow" of items from donation to accession and storage.
9. Commissioner and volunteers "things to do" list (Bob) - Bob has put together some notes on this and will complete them.
10. Brick School Room Enhancements (Colette) - ongoing. As the process evolves, Bob and Colette will note the new locations of any accessioned items, so we can update PastPerfect.
11. Horace Mann writings available in Museum Shop (Mary) - Mary is planning to look into written information by and about Horace Mann that we can sell in the Museum Shop. Other Commissioners can contribute ideas of other books/authors we can provide.

## **H. UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. Susan Elliott has information about one Charles Paine, an enslaved African-American who lived in Franklin, served in the Revolutionary Army, and is buried in Deerfield, MA. She plans to include him in an exhibition at the Museum in February 2017 for Black History Month.
2. Mary reports that Veterans Agent Dale Kurtz looks forward to becoming involved in our veteran related activities, especially around Veteran's Day.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (Del, Debbie, and Bob) met earlier today, to review a draft of their new bylaws. The FFHM's focus is fundraising.
2. There was some confusion about the historical significance of a small wooden coffin containing memorabilia from the 1978 Town Bicentennial, including items from "the Brothers of the Brush" and "the Belles". Debbie plans to write a short description of what those groups did, and how that relates to the items we've been given.
3. Phyllis relates that Bernie Mullaney found some items of historic value that were discarded from the newly demolished 1720 Clark House at 221 Old Grove St., and will bring them to the Museum. This was bittersweet to hear. We plan to tour in person any condemned buildings in the future.

## **J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS - None.**

## **K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – (See DISCUSSIONS/VOTES.)**

## **L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 6-0.**