

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2015

Commissioners Present: Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini, Bob Percy.

Absent: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson.

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from March 10, 2015. Approved as amended (4-0).

B. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None.

C. **APPOINTMENTS** — None.

D. **PRESENTATIONS** — (see **Demolition Requests**)

E. **DISCUSSIONS/VOTES** — There was a motion (**Vote: 4-0**) to vote at our next meeting to change our regular meeting date from the third Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Horace Mann Birthday Celebration - Mary has invited the Town Council, the School Committee, and FHS history teachers, as well as our State Senator Ross, and State Representatives Roy and Spilka. Horace Mann historian Peter Golden will speak. We approved (**Vote: 4-0**) a speaker's fee of \$100. Refreshments were discussed (coffee, cake, water, paper goods).
2. Regarding the Horace Mann statue planned for the 150 Emmons Street site, Debbie reported that Counselor Vallee had appointed only Charlie Oteri and herself to investigate the statue, and that the recently formed committee of 5 (adding Rep. Roy, Mary Olsson, and one other gentleman) to do the same was formed in error. Debbie reported that the statue, sculptor (Bob Shure who created the Library's Benj. Franklin statue), and site had already been determined. Funds to pay for the statue will come from the Fletcher Fund (current balance \$190K), dedicated specifically to statues and memorials. Property owner Mr. Calarese will be paid \$130K for site preparation.
3. Appraisal Day (April 12th) — Was well-attended and grossed \$600. (as compared to \$1000. and \$800. on its two previous occasions).
4. Movie Night ("The Miracle Worker", April 19th, 6PM) — Bob created a one-page notice of the movie, and sent it to the Commission (to Mary for advertising). He will send it to the acting superintendent to encourage student participation. Free popcorn and water will be served. Admission is a canned good to benefit the Franklin Food Pantry.
5. Slavery Exhibit - Was a big success and garnered strong publicity (Milford News).
6. Franklin Arts Festival - (July 25th - Aug. 1st) - We agreed to target one day to participate: Sunday Aug. 2nd. Activities/demonstrations we'll offer: rug braiding (by Phyllis), wool spinning (Nancy Zazza), straw goods (Connie is researching).
7. Debbie reports that Microsoft Office is now installed on one or both of the PCs in the library room.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Preserving old audio recordings — Mary and Phyllis cleaned the records, and placed them in sleeves and boxes.
2. Computer inventory — ongoing.
3. Museum Trek - Nothing new.
4. Old Museum Update - Debbie had invited Jeff N. to our meeting but he could not attend. She reports that there is no report yet from the architect on what specific work is to be done.

5. Clothing Room (Connie, Colette) - No additional info.
6. Reference Room (Debbie) - ongoing.
7. Album project at FHS — haven't heard back.
8. Chilson Film Project (Bob Oliver) — Ongoing.
9. Susan Elliot - transcriptions of records|volunteer|Dean - No new info.

H. NEW BUSINESS - None

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The current balance is \$5,840.

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS –

- 221 Old Grove St. - Property owner Charles Hunter described some of the measures he had taken to eliminate the odors from pet waste. (These had been communicated to the Commission on 4/3, but were not widely disseminated.) Because there was not sufficient time to absorb and act upon the information at hand, the commission agreed (**Vote: 4-0**) to convene a special meeting on Thurs. Apr. 23, 2015 at 6:30 PM to discuss the matter further.
- 606 East Central St. - The Commission, having reviewed the information about this property in advance and at the meeting, concluded that the structure in question was not of historic value, and the demolition could proceed.
- 150 Emmons St. - We examined the letter given by the builder (Mr. Calarese) to the Building Commissioner, but because we were missing the customary letter from the Building Commissioner to the Historical Commission, we elected to discuss the matter at our upcoming special meeting on Apr. 23. During the discussion of the property, it was noted that though it lacked historical value (**Vote: 4-0**, because of two extensive renovations: one in the 1930s, and one in the 1970s), the building had been in continuous existence since before 1930, and therefore required a proper demolition request from the Building Commissioner (**Vote: 3-1**).

L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 4-0.