

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2013

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Marlene Oliver, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegri, Bob Percy. **Absent:** None.
Visiting: Michael Barry

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 16, 2013

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

C. APPOINTMENTS – Debbie confirmed that Colette's name was submitted to the Town Council for approval as a Member. Michael Barry attended to introduce himself and expressed interest in becoming an Associate Member. The Commission voted 6-0 in favor of this, and will send his name to the Town Council for approval.

D. PRESENTATIONS

The Housing Authority could not attend tonight as planned. Their aim is to convert the Old South Meeting House into two two bedroom condos. This would entail no changes to the building's exterior. It would entail replacing the windows with more energy efficient replicas of the current windows. Chris Feeley, chair of the Franklin Housing Authority may attend our next meeting in September.

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

E1. What books do we plan to keep downstairs? Colette spoke to Jack, the owner of the Shire Bookshop. He will look at our list of books and give us a sense of their monetary value, and perhaps, their value for Franklin history.

E2. Ways to increase foot traffic? Bob summarized his visit to the Fall River Historical Society. They have paying members, and a members only reference library. They have done a superb job reaching out to former residents who want to maintain a connection with their city, through donations of items or dollars. They have a full-time curator, and provide tours to members. Non-members browse through the museum on their own. Bob also visited the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY – an outstanding museum. Their displays combine audio, video, informative signage, and artifacts for a multi-media effect for all learning styles.

E3. Ideas for Emmons Street Corner? Debbie spoke with Jeff N. about this space. He is leaning away from a fountain, but likes the idea of a single statue (such as of Horace Mann) and open grass space.

E4. Metro West visit to the museum. They loved the Museum, particularly the wedding dress display.

E5. Antique Appraisal Day – Sept 15th. A subset of people (Colette, Connie, Debbie, Bob) agreed to meet to plan this event.

E6. The Train Station Rehab – The construction has kept the structural integrity of the building. (The MBTA is performing this work.) The Citizen's Action Committee would like to place it on the Nat'l Register of Historic Places. For this to happen, does the town need to own it? (The MBTA currently owns it.) Debbie will consult with Jeff about whether this effort should proceed.

E7. Jane's Frames – Work on replication of WWII pictures and framing continues (THANK YOU!). We resolved to copy scanned photos to disk. Mary may then upload them to Facebook and ask folks to identify as many as they can. We may also want to print them out and bring them to the Senior Center for people to identify.

E8. Pumpkin Carving Event, Sun. 10/6 11 AM – to coincide with the Harvest Festival. Kids will carve pumpkins, which we can display at the museum, using battery powered lights. After the appraisal event (9/15) we will set up a subcommittee to organize this.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communications – (Bob)**
- **Document Preservation and Policies – (Connie & Del)**

John C. has made great progress in inventorying.

- Events – (Debbie, Colette, Connie) We discussed a day to take down the wedding dress display, some time before 9/15.
- Finance and Budget – (Debbie)
- Grants – (TBD)
- Hosting – (Debbie)
- Museum Display – (Colette, Connie, Debbie)
- Museum Operations – (Del)
- Outreach to Schools, Community – (Bob & Debbie)
- Publicity – (Mary Olsson)
- Strategic Plan – (Bob, Connie, Mary Olsson)
- A NEW SUBCOMMITTEE: Volunteer Training (Mary Olsson, Del) We may need to hold a separate meeting (in October or thereafter, when Mary is available) for hosts, so that they know how to fill out a route the donation forms. Mary also expressed interest in working on scheduling hosts.
- Website – (Bob, Mary Olsson)

G. OLD BUSINESS

Do we need donors to fill out more information on donor forms? Mary Olsson will look in PastPerfect for any additional info we may want to request on the donor form.

The museum log book – how do we follow up on that info?

H. NEW BUSINESS

Franklin has a “Work Off Program” for senior’s tax relief. It requires a 100 hours of service.

Marlene brought in a box of DVDs of interviews she and Bob O. had put together.

I. FINANCES

J. MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

K. FFHM

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests – None

L. Vote to adjourn, 6-0