

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2015

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

Absent: Debbie Pellegri.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from November 10th, approved as amended (6-0).

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS — We discussed the applications. A motion to recommend Richard Remillard as a full member passed 5-0. A big thanks to all applicants for their interest. We discussed having prospective associate member Jeremy Ball attend our January meeting to get acquainted.

D. PRESENTATIONS — None.

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

1. Holiday Stroll — Was extremely successful and well attended. Mrs. Claus aka Mary O'Neill was a big hit. Crafts (making ornaments) was successful. We discussed having someone in costume out on the street next year to lure more people in, and having live music inside, as performed by either Kai Olsson or someone acquainted with the Olssons that Mary Olsson had in mind.
2. Museum open on holidays? — We discussed opening on special days when school is not in session. We resolved to determine these days on a case by case basis, some two months in advance, and felt it would be good to offer something extra on those days, such as a guest speaker. An example - for Veteran's Day, have a speaker at the Museum after the annual Veteran's Day Breakfast at the VFW adjourns. We plan to contact the veteran's agent to get veterans' input on this.
3. The state of the display partitions — there are various options. Phyllis provided information about Screenflex (<http://www.foldingdoorsandroomdividers.com>) . Colette will investigate and send out email on her findings.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Project (Bob) - In progress.
2. Audio record project (Phyllis and Mary) - In progress.
3. Digitized documents (Bob) - Bob plans to send additional books to archive.org to be scanned, but will touch base with Felicia Oti at the Library to determine which documents the Library plans to scan as part of the Library Upgrade project, so as not to duplicate their efforts.
4. Textile Preservation (Connie) - Nothing new.
5. Veteran picture display — We are waiting for feedback from Jeff DiCiccio.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Album Project at FHS - nothing new.
2. Museum Trek - Mary will send Tim an email.
3. Clothing Room - nothing new.
4. Reference Room - ongoing.
5. Film Project (Bob Oliver) - In progress. Bob P. will touch base with Bob O.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. We have been unsuccessful in locating the Historical Commission's bylaws online. We will continue to search for hardcopy handouts from previous meetings.
2. Mary will contact Mike D'Angelo to ask him about unfinished work at the Museum.
3. Rick Holmes, a TV anchor in NJ has been in touch with us about donating the WWII era letters of his father and Franklin resident Dick Holmes. There are many letters and these would be a wonderful addition to our collection of primary sources.
4. A change for the meeting agenda - add an 'Upcoming Schedule' section to list the details of upcoming events as they become known.
5. Debbie has offered to meet a visiting cub scout den at the Museum on 12/15 at 7PM.
6. Susan Elliott has been working with a student (visually impaired) at Dean who is seeking an internship of some kind in history. Susan plans to write up a project proposal for us to consider.
7. Members are confused about the "flow" of incoming accessioned items. Bob plans to write a description of how this flow currently operates.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The current balance (as of 9/30/15) is \$7,029.

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

1. Members are confused about the "flow" of incoming accessioned items. Bob plans to write a description of how this flow currently operates.
2. Someone proposed that we draw up a list of things commissioners and volunteers can do at the Museum. Bob will attempt a first draft. This will help us mark our progress and know what projects to offer others.
3. Colette discussed making enhancements to the Red Brick School Room. She has been discussing ideas with Paula Sandham who knows a great deal about the school.
4. Given his importance in US history, we discussed making Horace Mann's writings available in the Museum Gift Shop.

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – None.

L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 5-0.