

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2012

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Marlene Oliver, Debbie Pellegrini (Chair), Bob Percy (Secretary), Alice Vendetti (Treasurer), Alan Earls, Mary Olsson. *Absent:* None.

Associates Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson. *Absent:* Eamon McCarthy Earls, Kai Olsson, Mary O'Neill.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved.

Commission Membership -- Nothing pending.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ Communications – (Bob)

Nothing new to report.

⊗ Document Preservation and Policies – (Alan, Connie, Del)

We received a laptop upgrade, and Del assisted with the software upgrade of PastPerfect. The next step will be to train an intern on this software, possibly a Dean student or a recent retiree from the town library.

⊗ Events – (Debbie, Colette, Connie)

The Franklin Cultural Council will be at the Museum on April 1, 2012 to award grants to worthy organizations.

Connie and Colette are working on the display “Victorian Secrets” to open during April and May.

We decided not to hold a March town birthday celebration.

Alan is following up with a genealogy resource person who may give a seminar/presentation at the Museum about genealogical research.

⊗ Finance and Budget – (TBD)

The PastPerfect software upgrade cost roughly \$500.

⊗ Grants – (Marlene, Alan)

We received a brochure from the Mass. Historical Commission notifying us of grant opportunities for 2012.

We discussed giving grants to worthy parties who have been dedicated to historical preservation in Franklin.

Hosting – (Debbie)

For now, we are asking hosts to enter and leave the Museum through the back door, to avoid false alarms to the police.

Museum Display – (Colette, Connie, Alice, Debbie)

Connie and Colette visited the Museum of Printing in North Andover, and were very impressed with their organization and displays. They have a board of 20 people.

Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)

With the help of Caitlin Coyne, we plan to wrap up a mission statement for the Museum. Meeting is March 1, 2012 at the Museum for all who can attend. A quorum is not required.

There are some small issues with the Museum building. Bob will send a punch list to Debbie for a work order for these items.

Ron Pellegrini designed and built a sample display shelf at top-of-window height. We agreed this is exactly the right thing for displaying items to make better use of vertical space in the Museum.

Outreach School Community – (Bob, Alan, Debbie)

Marlene, Bob, and Connie attended a sitdown chat about the town's with longtime town resident Ken Derosier and colleagues. We filmed the conversation for our film archives.

Publicity – (Mary Olsson)

Nothing new to report.

Website – (Bob, Alan, Mary Olsson)

Mary has created a Facebook page for the Museum. Bob continues to build out the Museum website.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM) – Current account balance is \$3600.

Correspondence (see other sections)

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests -- No new requests.

The Commission was copied on a letter sent from Brona Simon of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to Jerry Minor-Gordon of the Environmental Protection Agency Brownsfield Program. Regarding the site at 87 Grove St. (Norfolk Woolen (Former Nu-Style) Mill), the MHC finds that there are “no historic properties affected,” due to the fact that the Mill “does not retain sufficient integrity of materials, feeling or place to meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the national register of Historic Places”.

Research Requests – None

New Business

We agreed to perform a close edit of Lindsay's museum visitor's guide for possible use in various written materials (flyers, signage).

Alan presented some notes about possible uses for the old museum on Washington St.:

- Team up with an arts group or gallery
- Civil War Museum – there are a few local reenactor groups and others that might welcome something like this
- Piano Museum – there is some interest in this from Charles Best
- Straw Hat museum
- A church or synagogue
- A coffee house or performance space (seasonal?)
- Square dances
- A “Direct Democracy” museum with periodic reenactments of town meetings or debates of historic issues
- A place to hold Mock Trial programs
