

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2013

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Alan Earls, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini (Chair), Bob Percy (Clerk). *Absent:* Marlene Oliver

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

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved as amended.

Commission Membership – Alice Vendetti has resigned from the Commission after 30 years of dedicated service: the longest tenure of any Historical Commission member. To her we owe a debt of gratitude for her contributions to the Town of Franklin.

To fill the vacancy she has left, the Commission voted 5-0 (with one absent) to nominate associate member Connie Lawson. The nomination will now go to the Town Council for approval.

Election of Officers – The election of officers was as follows:

For Commission Chair: nominated was Debbie Pellegrini. Approved 5-0 (with one absent)

For Commission Treasurer: nominated was Del Arnold. Approved 5-0 (with one absent)

For Commission Clerk: nominated was Bob Percy. Approved 5-0 (with one absent)

For Commission Corresponding Secretary: no nomination

Ethics Training – Be sure to take the State mandated online ethics training.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Communications – (Bob)**

Letters required:

- To the family of Robert Pirelli for her donation of her son's uniform

We received a thank you from Cultural Connections (specifically Jeff Hattem of Navigator Publishing) for our participation on the Cultural Connections Map for MetroWest

Bob has drafted some 60-second spots of Franklin history for Franklin.tv to use. The subject: the 1863 portion of the diaries of George Wadsworth of South Franklin. Bob will contact Pete Fasciano to determine whether they were looking for video or audio as well. We will also let Gail Lembo, compiler of the Wadsworth Diaries, know what we are planning to do.

Bob will also ask Pete F. when the interview of Stanley Chilson's nephew (Mr. Buchanan) will air again, and if he can provide us with an overall program schedule.

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

Kacey Donahue's cataloging project is nearing completion. (He is currently helping us by recording in PastPerfect the whereabouts of all items in the display cabinets.)

We discussed briefly the merits of having a PastPerfect data entry person.

Mary knows of someone, a FHS sophomore, who needs community service hours. Del mentioned that Dean is starting to require projects. Alan will contact the point person there (Richard G.) to see if there are students available.

What projects can we offer? (This will help us know how to gather help.)

- Inventorying what's in the cabinet drawers.
- Inventorying what's in the file drawers in the basement.
- Inventorying what's in the old safe.
- Inventorying items on the display floor (things not in display cases).

Alan will scan veterans' photos, and then hand off the images to Jane at Jane's Frames for her to frame and mat and provide labels in calligraphy. Jane graciously offered to help us frame things that badly need it.

Is there grant money that can allow us to fund this reframing? (See Grants section)

The vinyl-to-digital audio conversion project by teachers at FHS: They are looking for turntables. They are seeking a grant to perform this task. They plan to submit the grant request by Feb. 20th. We would like to have them include all of the vinyl disks the Museum has.

⊗ **Events – (Debbie, Colette, Connie)**

The FHS Class of 1963 will hold a reunion gathering at the Museum in June. Mary suggested for reunions - scan that year's yearbook and display them. She will investigate.

A Victorian Christmas – raised \$1370. for the Franklin Food Pantry. Al LePage is interested in coming back next December, on a Thursday night.

A motion - to invite Al LePage back to perform 'A Victorian Christmas' in Dec. 2013: Approved 5-0 (with one absent).

The Annual Downtown Holiday Stroll was a success.

Eamon McCarthy Earls' presentation and book signing was a great success and well-attended. a great success. Norfolk 10th District State Representative Jeff Roy was in attendance, and was very impressed.

A motion - to make a donation to Eamon for the presentation, in the amount of \$100. Approved 5-0 (with one absent).

We have the following additional events proposed for the coming months:

- Jan 20th – Vera Meyer (glass armonica) and Horace Mann student presentations
- Feb 17th – A TBD speaker about the Rail Trail Project
- March 2nd - Town's birthday (gather Sunday March 3rd). Perhaps display pictures of people who share this birthday in the new display frames.
- March 17th - Presentation about Franklin's Irish Culture -- Colette will investigate having Irish musicians perform
- April 21st -- quilt display (not Victorian Secrets. Collette will try to find a speaker for quilts.
- May -- Possibly a celebration of farming, gardens, on the third Sunday. Have the Crawfords in attendance.
- June -- Class of '63 reception. Display the “parachute” wedding dress after the Class '63 reception.
- July 21st -- Coins and stamps speaker (perhaps Jimmy Johnson)
- August 18th - no event

⊗ **Finance and Budget – (Debbie)**

Nothing new.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Nothing new.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Nothing new.

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

Nothing new.

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

We looked at Bob Oliver's proposed design for an FFHM letterhead. We sent a couple of format suggestions. Motion - to pay for a set of ink cartridges for Bob Oliver. Approved 5-0, with one absent.

We bought a sandwich board for outside.

Franklin Arts Center donated calendars. How much do we charge? \$10.

We discussed the proposed work on the back left wall (behind the video screen).

⊗ **Outreach to Schools, Community – (Bob, Alan, Debbie)**

Cub scouts to visit on Sunday, 1/27.

⊗ **Publicity – (Mary Olsson)**

Bob will contact Franklin.tv to gauge their needs for 30 or 60 second spots about Franklin's history.

⊗ **Strategic Plan – (Mary Olsson, Connie, Bob)**

Nothing new.

⊗ **Website – (Bob, Alan, Mary Olsson)**

Bob will continue work on the Civil War portion of the Museum website.

Bob will update the Commission website with the latest member and 'term expires' information.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Debbie handed out a spreadsheet of the year's deposits and withdrawals. Year ending balance is \$5918.87

Housing Rehab Requests – None.

Demolition Requests – Potential buyer of 92 Pleasant St. would like to demolish the current structure. Del informed them that they need to submit a demolition request with the town.

Research Requests

New Business -- None