

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2015

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

- A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from April 14th (regular meeting) approved as amended; April 23rd (special meeting): approved.
- B. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None.
- C. **APPOINTMENTS** — None.
- D. **PRESENTATIONS** — None.
- E. **DISCUSSIONS/VOTES**

- 1. Voted (5-0) to change our monthly meeting date from the third Tuesday to the second Tuesday. This allows us to post publicity (deadlines are usually mid-month) based on our meeting's discussion.
- 2. Donations: need to move donated items from the Library Room to the Accession Table downstairs.
- 3. John Campbell - PastPerfect database project. Worked with us before (Del) on PastPerfect. He and Bob will coordinate on this project to add to our database, and to reduce some of the backlog of to-be-accessioned items.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Franklin Arts Festival - (July 25th - Aug. 1st) - We agreed to target one day to participate: Sunday August 2nd. (**Note:** this was changed from the Aug. 2nd date we agreed upon in April). Activities/demonstrations we'll offer: rug braiding (by Phyllis), wool spinning (Nancy Zazza), straw goods (Connie is researching, perhaps someone at the Medway Library). No food will be provided at the Museum that day.
- 2. Horace Mann Birthday Celebration - Roundly acclaimed as a success. Mary was not here to provide additional details.
- 3. Movie Night ("The Miracle Worker", April 19th, 6PM) — Despite advertising and notifying the schools to encourage student participation, and free popcorn and water, attendance was poor. DVD borrowed from the Library paused a few times (perhaps due to scratches). In the future, it may be better to stream the movie from the Internet. Canned goods collected, and unused popcorn, were delivered to the Franklin Food Pantry.
- 4. Slavery Display - Nothing more to add.
- 5. Museum siding and doors update — Debbie reports that John Rondo of the DPW repaired the issues we were seeing with the outside doors.
- 6. Wedding Gown Display — After much effort to get this set up, Colette is targeting this Thursday for its completion.
- 7. Davis Thayer Student Visit - Debbie hosted this event. Debbie requested, of Bob and Mary, to provide a copy of the Franklin History timeline to give to educators to assist in their lesson plans.
- 8. 50th Reunion Visitors - Debbie reports this was a success.

G. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Preserving old audio recordings — Mary and Phyllis plan to index the records.

2. Computer inventory — Mary and Phyllis can coordinate with Bob to enter info about audio recordings into PastPerfect.
3. Museum Trek - Debbie spoke with the project's point person. He is hoping to complete a draft in the coming weeks.
4. Old Museum Update - Debbie handed out copies of a comprehensive report that was provided to the town by Civitects of 245 Main St. Warhead (architects) regarding the current state of the Old South Meeting House and the cost of different repair scenarios.
5. Clothing Room (Connie, Colette) - ongoing.
6. Reference Room (Debbie) - ongoing.
7. Album project at FHS — Mark Brady expressed an interest in contributing to this effort in the future.
8. Chilson Film Project (Bob Oliver) — ongoing.
9. Susan Elliot - transcriptions of records|volunteer|Dean - Susan wasn't here to elaborate.
10. Veterans Frames - Colette has been looking into this. We discussed contacting a possible vendor (based in Northboro) to consult with us.
11. Textile Preservation - Colette feels we need a consultant to help advise us on the care of especially brittle items, such as the older wedding dresses.

H. NEW BUSINESS - None

1. To Do List - Debbie has been assembling a list of things we have yet to do.
2. Debbie suggested offering town residents historic plaques for their houses as a possible fundraiser.
3. Textile Preservation - Colette feels we need a consultant to help advise us on the care of especially brittle items, such as the older wedding dresses.
4. 221 Old Grove St. — We were not able to make our own interior photographs of this now demolished structure. Colette would like to contact the owner to see if he has any.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The current balance is \$7,088.

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Colette discussed the schedule, and desired projects to focus on in the coming months: revamping what is now the room that contains items from the Red Brick School, developing a permanent display for the veterans' pictures, organizing and adding to our collection of manikins, and investigating how to restore the old printing press to working order.

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – None.

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