



Municipal Building – Town of Franklin
355 East Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes March 17, 2009

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Mona Ghiringhelli
Debbie Pellegri
Bob Percy

Visiting:

Dianne Brunner

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, as amended (to add Alice to the attending list), from 2/17/09.

Commission members are welcome to check the Commission's mail box at the Town Offices, and to notify Commission members of any timely issues before the next meeting.

Finances

We have no new bills. Alice submitted the Commission's annual membership fee (\$75.) to NEMA.

Obtaining 501 (c) 3 Status

Mona plans to meet with Herb Hunter to discuss the details of this effort.

Commission Membership

We are pleased to have Dianne Brunner attend and observe this month's meeting.

New Business

Four Corners Site

The Commission agreed on, and Bob P. signed for the Commission, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that describes how all plan to mitigate the impending demolition of the current structure. The mitigating stipulations include:

- Recordation, to provide photographic documentation of the existing structure.
- Post-demolition salvage of the school's cupola, if possible
- Creation of an interpretive plaque at the site. (The Commission would like to place this sign near the entranceway of the new structure, rather than as a freestanding plaque at the intersection, as previously considered).

Archives Internship

Volunteer Nick Allevato has been working on sorting museum items and entering inventory data into the computer, including info about our books. (Books are cataloged by the category of their content.)

Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

We have another meeting, likely the last, for any Commissioners able to attend, with Joe Rizza of Court St. architects on Thurs., 3/19 to discuss additional details of the plans for the museum's interior. Brief highlights from the previous meeting;

- No fake window on west side of building
- The chimney will be removed
- New front doors (if budget allows)
- Duct work in basement ceiling will be replaced
- New clapboards on east wall
- New flashing above front door

Repairing the Town Bandstand

Director of Town Facilities David Roche attended to provide information about the state of the bandstand on the Town Common, and his recommendations for repairing it. The structure is badly in need of repairs, in terms of structure, roofline, and drainage. The Commission agreed to allow the repairs to move forward.

Towle Brothers, Inc. has donated \$50K for this effort. Bids have been received to perform this work. It is likely the contract will be awarded in the next couple of weeks. Work must be completed by the Town's July 4th celebration.

Museum Displays

Spinning wheel – we need to contact Fred Peterson to have him write a description of the provenance of the spinning wheel he intends to donate to us. It purportedly belonged to Horace Mann's second wife.

Debbie and Mona presented two dress forms they acquired from a tuxedo store, for displaying apparel in the museum. These seem preferable to full mannequins.

A town resident has the Bicentennial quilt that we plan to display in the museum. It is currently TBD whether it would be best to frame the quilt or allow it to hang free.

Museum Inventory

Among our inventory, Del found 20 to 30 handwritten diaries.

Del intends to transcribe the handwritten notes that accompany display items.



Housing Rehab Requests -- None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests – Del related that he would contact Alan E. to work with Vaun Raymond of WA State regarding Mr. Raymond’s request for a couple of photos of town significance. Mr. Raymond’s father, Sam Raymond, was a student at Dean in the 1940s. He is working on a video of his father’s life.

Correspondence

We received information from NEMA about an upcoming meeting to discuss challenges that museums face.

Downtown Partnership and Related Items

Because stores will be open on many upcoming Thursday evenings, the Commission is considering having the Museum open on those evenings to draw pedestrian traffic.

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