

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2015

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

Absent: None.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from September 8th, approved as amended (6-0).

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS — We still have a vacancy on the Historical Commission. Mary placed an ad in the major local media: Facebook, Franklin Matters, Franklin TV, Milford News, Franklin News, the Franklin Gazette.

D. PRESENTATIONS — None.

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

Susan Elliot attended today to discuss subject matter for some exhibits she is proposing:

1. Based on the Orderly Book kept by Wrentham (perhaps the Franklin region) residents George Metcalf and John Boyd during the French and Indian War (1756 - 63). Target is to have this display up from 3rd week of December to some time in February. (The upcoming veteran's display will be up thru the 2nd week of December.) The Commission voted 6-0 to approve this display.
2. Franklin Resident William Paine, an African American who joined the US military during the Revolution, and later moved to Deerfield. Perhaps target this to coincide with Black History month (February 2016).
3. A diary kept by Franklin resident Isabel Conley in 1930, describing town life and working conditions as the country slips into the Great Depression.

We also discussed another possible display, for Ficco's Bowladrome because it has closed its doors this year. Debbie and Bob obtained items from Ficco's that we can display. Given work required on the other displays, and the need to officially accession the new items from Ficco's, we planned to meet in February to discuss the details of this display. Colette suggested that we can then lay out all the pieces, focus on research and signage for specific items so we'll know the scope of the project.

Mary suggested that we purchase additional stands that can display signage.

Upcoming Veterans' Display - As part of this display, we would like to recognize Howard Crawford for his service during WWII and the Korean War. His family has kindly agreed to allow us to borrow scrapbooks and other items that we can display. Colette suggested we target Sunday Nov. 8th and Monday Nov. 9th as set up days.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Project (Bob & John C.) - Currently on hold. Bob will contact John to find out his availability for more work on this.
2. Record Project (Adding 78 RPM records to PastPerfect) (Mary and Phyllis) -- Mary has entered more information about audio recordings into PastPerfect.

3. Digitized documents - Bob will get in touch with our contact at the Boston Public Library, to see where we stand, and to submit additional documents for conversion.
4. Museum Siding - This is under way. The DPW has apparently found asbestos here.
5. Textile Preservation - Connie has reached out to the textile studies people at URI and to the textile museum in Lowell, and is awaiting responses.
6. Veterans Picture Display - Colette did not hear back from the display contractors in Northboro. Mary spotted a display in Stop & Shop that is similar to what we'd been discussing, and gave Colette its location for a look. We discussed various possibilities for displaying these pictures - in window spaces, or having in mobile (on wheels).
7. Mary attended NEMA's Massachusetts Museum Day on Oct. 7th at the State House, which was a resounding success and good visibility for the Town of Franklin at the State level and among our elected Representatives. NEMA recognized and appreciated the \$100. provided by the Commission to help sponsor the event.

G. OLD BUSINESS - (Nothing new for all items)

1. Album Project at FHS
2. Museum Trek
3. Clothing Room
4. Reference Room
5. Film Project (Bob Oliver)

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Debbie requested a copy of the Franklin timeline that she could provide to teachers before she meets with their classes to discuss Franklin history.
2. Mary suggested a possible outreach program at the Museum that could have Dean history students meet with Franklin Second graders as part of their (young and old) Franklin history work.
3. We discussed the "best practice" of having the display committee be in charge of the things that are displayed in the Museum.
4. We voted 6-0 to have the Museum be closed on Thursdays during the months of December, January, and February. Two exceptions: the night of the Holiday Stroll (Thurs. 12/3), and 12/10. Bob will update the Commission website to reflect this change in open hours.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The current balance is roughly the same as last month (roughly \$7,100).

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – None.

L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 6-0.