

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2017, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Jeremy Ball, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy

Absent: Colette Ferguson, Richard Remillard

Associate Commissioners Present: Kai Olsson

Visiting: Debbie Pellegri, Paul Pelosi

Meeting began 6:40.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 9th minutes: approved as amended

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. PRESENTATIONS - Brian Lyra, of historyview.org.

1. This educational virtual reality company seeks to help us capture the essence of local history.
 - 'Sweep' of the Museum's main floor is available online. So far we've logged 100 visitors to it.
 - On an ongoing basis, we can add "tags" that contain add'l videos
 - Teachers can use sweeps for lesson plans
 - People can use Google Cardboard to view sweeps on their phones
 - We can link to other sweeps that Brian and company may make of town sites
 - A "highlight reel" online serves as a user friendly jukebox for selecting videos
 - Sweeps include "matter tagging" that provide add'l detail about selected items
 - Contract would include 6 months of free hosting, then \$20./mo. thereafter
 - 82 museums are currently on historyview.org, with 60 more in the pipeline
 - Their competition is Google Expedition
2. Demo delay bylaw (Jeremy) - Jeremy provided a sample rewritten bylaw. Structures under consideration would be any 50+ years old. Codified would be our current practice of not holding a public hearing unless the Commission deems the structure of historic value. Involved in this process will be the Town Planner, ZBA, and Building Commissioner.

E. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - 36 Plain St., built in 1810. Commissioners will investigate; Mary O. will discuss with Building Commissioner Brown.

F. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM)

1. The Friends currently have \$8000. which doesn't include Mann mug proceeds, or proceeds from recent donation request letter. Debbie would like to make Horace Mann dedication booklets available at the Museum Shop.

G. DISCUSSION/VOTE - None.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Getting Started Guide (Bob) - Bob will send the document to Mary
2. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - Account is at zero. Looking forward to a reinfusion on July 1st.

I. EVENTS

(For recaps, see OLD BUSINESS)

1. Wedding Dress Display - Opened to great interest and foot traffic. A thank you from Chair to Colette, Connie, Kai, Phyllis, and Bob for aggregate 100+ hours of set up time.

2. Strawberry Stroll - Well attended.
3. Franklin Cultural Festival (7/26-29) - A guest speaker will be our contribution to the festival.
4. Petting Zoo for Harvest Fest (Colette) - not present

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Recap - Walk down memory lane with Joe Landry - Well attended. Joe will resume these presentations in Sept. Mary asked Joe to provide the Museum with copies of any pictures he receives.
2. Joe Comeau, who knows about the Community Preservation Act (CPA) will attend our July meeting, and provide a presentation (roughly 30 minutes)
3. National Register signs for the downtown (Jeremy) - Ongoing.
4. Eagle Scout Project - We hope to have Sal Backus present his final work to us, then have him make his work on the museum website visible to the public.
5. Shelving for upstairs room (Remy) - Nothing new.
6. Changes to Demo Delay Bylaw - See Presentations, Item 2.
7. Senior Center display of WWII veterans' pictures - Done. Kai and Phyllis delivered them.
8. Speaker for July (Connie) - We already have a speaker scheduled.
9. 2018 Museum Calendar - Mary and Phyllis will begin selecting pictures. Frances Williams of the Tri-County graphic arts dept. is a resource to assist with design/production
10. Boston Post Cane Display Case (Phyllis) - Ongoing.
11. Little Red House - 1342 West Central St. - Historical signage - Debbie suggested contacting Lucy Semerjian who lived nearby.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Intern assistance at the Museum - Mary is investigating options.
2. Discuss any immediate need for materials - None.
3. Donations:
 - 1910 press from Hampton College. Mary distributed photos of it. A motion to approve this acquisition passed 5-0.
4. Summer tasks:
 - store dresses and organize the associated info
 - continue to discuss next steps for the CPA

L. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - None

M. ADJOURN - Voted 5-0 to adjourn, 8:24PM.