

Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes April 14, 2021

Due to Covid restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom

Commission Members Present: Mary Olsson, Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani, Randy LaRosa, Brock Leiendecker, Richard Remillard

FFHM rep: Paula Vozella

Minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: The annual meeting was held on Sunday April 11, 2021. $3,000 in donations have been received as a result of the solicitation letters. $3600 spent on new gift shop items. $2480 sold. No new Christmas Ornament design will be ordered for this year. Not ordering anything additional for the gift shop at this time.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: The fiscal year budget ends in June. Money needs to be spent and all receipts in by end of June
* CPA: Phyllis reported the committee has had it’s first training session, the presentation by Stewart Saginor was excellent. The amount of money reserved for Historic Preservation is $132,000. Hist. Comm. Gets 10% of total funds, but the money will not be available until November, 2022. The next meeting is May 18th. The Historical Commission is scheduled to do a presentation at the June 15th meeting. Mary asked if the date could be moved to later in the year to have more time to prepare presentation. Phyllis said she would ask if we could do our presentation the same night at Housing, Sept. 21. The committee decided our main focus would have to be the preservation of the Oliver Pond Home. The house will most likely need to be moved. Mary said she could put together a presentation but would need help and asked for volunteers. Brock said he would assist. A secondary consideration for CPA money is what to do with the South Meeting House.
* ARCHIVIST update:
  + **Exhibits** The new Timeline of Franklin History exhibit is almost complete. The cases now match the fun facts being displayed above them and every artifact on display has a label. The final step is to tie the timeline and the artifacts together so that our visitors know where to look when they are reading along. If anyone has any more fun facts about the Town that should be added, please let me know!
  + **Federal Parlor Room** Franklin TV filmed a tour of the federal parlor room with Jim Johnston recently. It is now up on the Town’s YouTube page and can be found here. It is very informative and worth a watch if you haven’t seen it yet.
  + **Dr. Abbott Desk** Joe and Dianne Landry recently donated a desk that has been in the Landry family for 70 years. It originally belonged to Dr. Solon Abbott, who made his home and office at 30 Dean Ave. The story and desk are now on display.
  + **Visitors Stats** Our visitor rate for March 2021 is down slightly from March 2020 due to a special event last year that we were unable to host this year because of COVID-19.
  + **Air Purifiers** The Facilities Department has dropped off several air purifiers for the Museum. They clean everything out of the air and make us all safer. There is one in the library, one in the front by the contact tracing table, and one by the podium behind the Brick School model. Simply press the power button when you get the Museum on Sundays and then turn them off again when you leave

OLD BUSINESS:

* Jim Johnston Room: Rich Remillard met with Mike Rizzano of Franklin Glass to discuss a glass partition at the entry to the Federal Parlor room, removing the two wooden doors and allowing an unobstructed view of the room. Mary to speak with Jim to get his ideas and approval. Brock suggested a remote control for the lamp at the back of the room so we wouldn’t have to enter the room to switch on the light. It was suggested an audio be made by Jim to describe the items in the room and the audio be played on a loop.
* Covid Attendance Limit: BOH to come to the museum to give us accurate numbers.
* Reopening Plans: Nothing can be planned until restrictions are lifted.
* Lady Bug Trail: Sponsored by FDP, plans are being made for the Fall
* Cultural District ArtWALK: Weekend of June 11, 12, 13. Three ½ hour piano concerts to be performed by LIVEARTS at the museum on Saturday the 12th of June. mes are 11-11:30; 12-12:30 and 1-1:30. They are providing their own equipment. They will need acess by 10:30AM. Kai and Mary to cover.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Rich asked if we needed to invest in a tent. He recommended the Tent Connection 508-234-8748. It was decided one was not needed at this time as there is not a demand for it.
* Phyllis said the historical sign is up at the Thomson Press, everyone should go have a look at it.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* The fire wagon has been beautifully restored and is on display in the lobby of the fire station.
* $100 donation made to the Franklin Historical Commission in Alice Vendetti’s memory by Mayflower Textiles (The Mill Store). Check submitted by Margaret Frances Murray. Will be submitted to Town Council for acceptance.
* Received donation by mail from Karyn M. Buchanan Bliss, grand daughter of Grace L Chilson Buchanon. A 1913 plot map of the area at Main and Crescent by D.L. Chilson. It labels the ‘Singleton’ property which is now the Ginley Funeral home. It shows the layout of ‘hotel’ at the corner of Main and Crescent (Crescent House) . It also includes lots for James Farrington, the Episcopal Church, on School Street, Mary Baker. F.A. Everett. L.W. Stott, A.G. Dinsmore on Garfield street. The donor suggested it could be framed and displayed for its historic significance .
* Donation from Paula Pero, 3 photos of a class reunion for the Class of 1964 Dean College, Mary to contact Dean.
* Received 2 scrap books from the fire station of the Franklin Nurses Association from the 40’s 50’s 60’s. Appears to be the collection of Mrs. Ann Curtain.
* FHS All Class reunion scheduled for May 8th. Rich to take Oskey yearbooks to the event, as we have done in the past.
* Be sure to remember to sign in and take your temperature when you first arrive, at the table at the back near the library. A separate sheet is used out front for guest sign in. Please turn on the 3 air purifiers when you arrive, and turn them off before you leave.
* Randy said he would do research on a presentation for the South Meeting House.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 12, 2021 6:30PM via Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM