

Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes May 12, 2021

Due to Covid restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom

Commission Members Present: Mary Olsson, Colette Ferguson, Phyllis Malcolm, Paul Pisani, Randy Larossa, Richard Remillard. Associate Member: Kai Olsson

FFHM rep: Paula Vozella

Minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: Not much to report. Had a few sales. Still looking for volunteers.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: Balance the same. Funds to be spent before end of June.
* CPA: Next meeting Thursday 5/14. The group meets once a month. Phyllis will ask if Historical Commission presentation can be moved from June to September.
* ARCHIVIST update:
  + **Exhibits** The new Timeline of Franklin History exhibit is almost complete. I sprained my wrist skiing and have only recently regained minimal use of my right hand. Once it is back to normal, I will finish tying together the exhibit with the dates shown above.
  + **Museum Website** The website is being updated to include information about our collections for researchers. It should be done in the next week or so. Joe Landry has also provided links to his videos on the history of Franklin which will also be included. If anyone has any other useful links to add, please let me know!
  + **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.
  + **Contact Tracing** Volunteers are no longer required to take their temperatures when entering the Museum. However, everyone still has to sign in. Visitor contact tracing remains the same

OLD BUSINESS:

* Mary contacted Jamie about proposed changes for the doors and entrance to the Federal Parlor, he has no issues but we have to clear it with Jim and speak with Mike D. Rebecca had shared in an email that Jim was adamant about keeping doors locked. Mary to contact Jim to discuss.
* Covid Attendance update: Restrictions are changing constantly. Mary to check with Rebecca and BOH regarding latest guidelines and limitations.
* Reopening plans: As soon as all restrictions are lifted we can go ahead with reopening plans. The Second Sunday Speaker Series may be able to start as early as September.
* Ladybug trail: The museum will receive a Ladybug sculpture to be placed on the wall of the porch, thus designating us as an official stop on the Ladybug Trail. Installation of the sculptures overseen by FDP and Signs by Cam and are to take place in the next couple of weeks.
* Cultural District Event, ArtWALK Celebration Escape to the Arts is all set for the weekend of June 11,12 and 13. There are events all weekend long, including a kick off event at the Black Box Friday the 11th from 6:00PM-7:00PM followed by a performance. The museum will participate by hosting 3 piano performances at 11:00, 12:00 and 1:00. Mary and Kai to host. Mary to double check on capacity. Paula asked if the gift shop should be open and it was decided that was a decision the Friends should make.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Mary working with Allegra on Stationary
* Commission discussed and approved purchasing a laptop for commission use. Mary will purchase and move all commission and museum business to new laptop from her personal laptop. Mary had asked if the town had a Microsoft Office license we could tap into, if not we would either have to purchase a license or be sure the laptop we get does already have it installed.
* Commission discussed and approved purchase of high-resolution camera and camcorder to record events. It was suggested we work with Franklin TV to share recording disk cards for publication. Paul to investigate and purchase the cameras. Phyllis suggested if we got both at Staples, we could use the commission Staples card, and it will be billed directly to our account.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* Colette asked about a request recently seen in a local publication about the request of local Bridal photos, as there had been no discussion by the commission or the exhibit sub-committee. It was run in conjunction with a request by the Friends seeking new membership. Mary asked that the Friends not publish anything on behalf of the commission, or without first discussing it with the commission. The Friends are the fundraising arm of the museum and not directly involved with planning or authorizing solicitations for exhibits. Paula had asked Rebecca to submit the request for the Friends. Mary will review with Rebecca. Paula had mentioned she would like the bridal photos uploaded to the iC4k with the hope of drawing people into the museum.
* Colette asked about the bunting being put up in time for Memorial Day, Mary to check with the DPW.
* Phyllis confirmed that the commission will be doing the flowers for the large pots in front of the museum, rather than participating in the decorating done by the FDP. Phyllis will purchase the flowers this week and she and Colette will plant them Sunday. Mary asked that each Sunday the host put a gallon of water into each pot.
* Phyllis was contacted by former Franklin resident Paul Faenza who asked if the museum would be interested in him donating the shoes he wore while working at Ground Zero recovery after 911. It was agreed to accept the donation for display.
* Randy asked about getting work done on the Trowbridge piano. It had been decided that other than having it tuned from time to time as needed, no additional work would be done on the Trowbridge that is on display upstairs. It is basically for display purposes only.
* Mary noted that all future business and communication from the commission will be from the Gmail account. Franklinhistoricalmuseum1778@gmail.com

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30

Submitted by Mary Olsson