

Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes June 9, 2021

Commission Members Present: Mary Olsson, Phyllis Malcolm, Colette Ferguson, Paul Pisani, Randy LaRosa

Associate Members Present: Alan Earls, Kai Olsson

FFHM rep: None

Minutes of the May 2019 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: No one present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: Doesn’t have exact figure
* CPA: Public hearing June 17th regarding land off of Bridal Path
  + Historic Commission presentation moved to the Fall, date TBD
* ARCHIVIST update:
  + Exhibits The new Timeline of Franklin History exhibit is now done. The collections items on display are color coded to link to the dates above. The Women in Franklin exhibit came down this week. If anyone has any ideas for future exhibits, please let me know. We will start brainstorming for that soon.
  + Donations Just a friendly reminder that Deed of Gift forms need to be filled out by the donor, not by the person accepting the donation. It is a legal document which protects both the donor and the Museum and needs to be used properly. Please make sure all sections have been filled out before accepting a donation. If a donor declines to fill it out, do not accept the donation. More information on donation requirements can be found in the Donation Book in the library of the Museum. If anyone has any questions about this process, please let me know!
  + Visitors Stats Our visitor rate for May 2021 is down slightly from previous months, most likely due to the nice weather we have been having.
  + COVID Update The Town of Franklin lifted COVID restrictions in public facilities on June 1. I removed the one-way arrows and other COVID-related signage in the Museum. Volunteers no longer need to sign in and we no longer need to conduct contact tracing on visitors. Please still count the visitors who come in and use the Visitor Log Book to report it. It is located in the library by the phone. Also, please continue to use the air purifiers located at the front, back, and library of the Museum. Masks and social distancing are no longer required in the Museum, but are still highly recommended for those who have not yet been vaccinated. Visitors and volunteers should feel free to continue to wear a mask if they so choose and will not be judged for doing so. The adjustment back to normal life is going to be challenging for us all

OLD BUSINESS:

* Johnson room update: Mary spoke with Jim, he is anxious to get his second donation installed. Space for his next exhibit was discussed. Randy again suggested using the kitchen area. Kai spoke of the benefit of getting quality items in the museum. Paul asked if all things donated are related to Franklin.
* Covid attendance update: see archivist notes
* Reopening plan: After a long discussion it was decided that we would go back to pre-covid hours of Thursday nights, Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Will have re-opening celebration in July (Sunday July 11 discussed)
* Ladybug installation: Bug has been installed by Lisa Piana FDP and Cam’s signs
* Recap of ARTWALK: Museum participated in Cultural District event by hosting 3 piano concerts on 6/12. The music sounded wonderful and event was well attended.
* Approved purchases: Mary looking into laptop. Paul looking into cameras, some as high at $1100. He decided on a cannon point and shoot camera $350. Phyllis suggested Sony or Panasonic. Paul will make purchase by end of month.
* Faenza donation: Mary has contacted Paul and will meet with him to discuss and accept donation of shoes worn at ground zero during weeks following 9/11 as member of NYPD

NEW BUSINESS:

* Discussed Second Sunday Speaker Series, when do we allow full seating (30-40)
* Calendar to be sent out to all for updates for hosting. Randy not available July-August 14.
* New Thursday night hours will be 5:00pm-7:00pm
* Still need additional volunteers. Phyllis had two people interested, Mary to call. We could offer High School community service hours, and Senior work off hours – call Sue Barber at Senior Center.
* Discussed options for moving Oliver Pond Home when the time comes. No word on sale of property yet. Move the house with CPA money. Alan suggested town land across from Beaver Street soccer fields. Could use land as a park. If house existed before wires, electrical company would be responsible for moving wires and making way.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* Alan brought up an idea to sell the South meeting house on the market with deed restrictions. Check into Historic New England regulations. Asked if it had been rented out. Advocates that the town set this up, including development rights.
* Alan said there is an old bridge off of Lincoln street that may have originally been part of Lincoln Street. Randy thinks the Shaw family still owns the property
* Mary related hat it was suggested by a member of the Town Council, in a recent annual budget meeting, that ¾ of the commission’s budget be taken from the commission and put into the museum budget. The council did not agree with the suggestion.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25