

Town of Franklin Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes September 15, 2021

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

Guest: Janice Prentice

Minutes of the August 11, 2021 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: Jan Prentice due to be appointed Associate Member at tonight’s Town Council Meeting

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: 18 Coutu Street to be discussed at October Meeting

FFHM Report: No member present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

* TREASURER: No change between August and September. $322.94 Expended.
* ARCHIVIST update:
  + Exhibits Because the Davis Thayer Exhibit has been generating such great attention, rather than taking it down as previously discussed, it has been relocated into the Victorian Room. It will remain there until Jim Johnston's second donation is installed. I do not yet know the timeline for that, but will let everyone know as soon as I do.
  + Visitors Stats Our visitor rate for August 2021 is up from previous Augusts and was the second busiest month this year behind July.
  + Preservation Efforts Thanks to a preservation grant I received in the spring, I was able to purchase archival sleeves for our photographs and various 2-dimensional paper-based materials and am busy relocating things. The sleeves will help to preserve the materials for future generations as well as make them easier to handle.
* CPA: 9/29 4-6pm and 10/1 9-11am. Mary to attend both.
* Second Sunday Speaker Series: Paul Faenza’s presentation on 9/12 was very well attended, about 60 people, standing room only. Next speaker Stephen Puleo discussing his book Voyage of Mercy October 10th. Various sign ideas were discussed to advertise monthly events at the museum. Use of the sandwich board during open hours; electronic sign; glass framed sign either on the lawn or on the building; the large sign out front modified; lawn signs like campaign signs. Mary to get prices on lawn signs from Allegra and Staples.
* Exhibit Committee: Is there going to be a photo exhibit on farming, gardening, harvest, etc. for the Harvest Festival? Mary to follow up with Rebecca.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Faenza donation: The shoes Retired NYPD Sergeant Paul Faenza wore during his time at Ground Zero are in a temporary display case and will remain there until the special case from Gaylord arrives. Proper signage needs to go with the new display.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Cub Scout registration is Saturday 9/18, Randy to host
* Harvest Festival is Saturday 10/2/21, Remy reports we should have about 12 cars from the Red Devils car club on display. Colette and Phyllis to handle refreshments which will be served outside on the front porch
* FHS Class of 1971 will host a Quilts of Honor presentation to Veterans who graduated in their class. Event starts at 4:30 on Friday 10/1 and will take approximately 1 hour. Phyllis to open the museum, Mary to close. Podium, microphone and 27 chairs needed for the event. Paul to set up chairs and test microphone that afternoon.
* Newcomers Club 10/20/21, Mary to speak to the group. Will ask FFHM for a donation of ‘entering Franklin’ magnets to give out to the Newcomers.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

* Colette suggested we need a chair trolly to make the set up and break down of chairs easier. Richard to check with John Rondeau to see if the town has one, Colette to check the price of a new one at Global.
* Colette asked if there was any follow up to last month’s suggestion to have the story of how the town came to be named after Ben Franklin. It was suggested it be printed up and posted in the lobby.
* Phyllis noted the August SSSS presentation on Whiting and Davis is available on Wrentham Cable 8. It is also posted on the museum Facebook page.
* Mary suggested the museum establish uniformity of font and style for signage and start updating information in our display areas.
* Also suggested the front lobby be renovated and updated. Various ideas were discussed, more detailed follow up needed.
* Mary has contacted Jamie Hellen and would like to discuss roles and responsibilities of the Commission, the Friends and Rebecca so everyone is clear and responsibilities don’t overlap. Will also discuss fundraising vs donations.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM