

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2018, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Mary Olsson, Phyllis Malcolm, Jeremy Ball, Bob Percy, Colette Ferguson, Richard Remillard, Paul Pisani

Absent: none

Visiting: Debbie Pellegri, Pandora Carlucci, Ethan Salverson

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from December 8th approved as corrected.

B. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS –

- a. Pandora Carlucci discussed the Clark Cutler redevelopment and a potential town investment to create a satellite museum or display area that focused on Franklin’s manufacturing history

C. APPOINTMENTS – None (election of officers is done every two years, last in 2018)

D. PRESENTATIONS - None

E. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – None

F. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM) -

- a. FFHM has about \$8000 in account, all bills are paid, reviewing wishlist for the annual meeting on January 13th

G. DISCUSSION/VOTE –

- a. Museum Logo – members reviewed several options from Mr. Oliver and agreed that a hybrid of the Simple and Complex would be preferable. Mary will request that Mr. Oliver create the requested example. Vote is deferred.
- b. Johnston donation and space availability – Mr. Johnston has generously offered to make a sizeable donation in the form of two fully furnished rooms in honor of his mother, Clara Johnston, and Harriet Fisher Pond (the daughter of Jabez Fisher). Members discussed possible locations for these installations and requested a list of the artifacts likely to be included. It was recommended that the process of installation be documented, and that a film of Mr Johnston walking through and describing the rooms would be a great asset, as well. It was recommended that members should meet with Mr. Johnston to discuss further details and conditions.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS -

- a. Treasurer’s Report (Phyllis) – \$3643 in reserve, will hold further expenditures until the archivist’s report is done
- b. Active subcommittees
 - i. Hosting schedule – Mary continues to work these out and publish them in a timely fashion; January and February schedules have been distributed to hosts
 - ii. Volunteer training, scheduling, and coordination – there will be a meeting on February 3rd to handle feedback and miscellaneous concerns
 - iii. Events & scheduling
 1. All are encouraged to contribute and attend, where possible!
 2. Planned subjects and speakers for Second Sunday series:
 - a. March – Franklin’s Native American history – Benjamin Roine
 - b. April – BPL and Historical Architecture - Tom Stohlman
 - c. May – John & Abigail Adams – Gary Highlander
 - d. June – Stone Walls of New England – Robert Thorson
 - e. July – Victorian Secrets – Mary Olsson
 - f. August – Spirits of Fashion – Ren Antonowicz
 - g. September –French Neutrals & Wrentham – Steve Joanis

- h. October – JFK – Mike Tougias
 - i. November – Reconstructing History and Genealogy – Corinne Smith
 - j. December – Evolution of Christmas – Ken Turino
 - 3. Mary will send a request to the FFHM for funding of speakers fees, approximately \$2,000.
- iv. Event preparation and display – Colette & Phyllis
 - 1. Nothing currently in process
 - 2. Paul is working on a display of tools and will try to include information on Franklin’s farms, targeting a Spring installation
 - 3. Victorian inventory for June display
- v. Accessioning donations into Past Perfect – Jeremy & Paul
 - 1. On hold until archivist gives clear direction on priorities and processes
 - 2. Paul, Remi, and Jeremy have been reading through Bob’s instructions and will start accessioning, targeting one night a week, where possible
 - 3. Need to be sure to properly store accessioned materials
- vi. Monthly publicity – Mary continues to compile and send this out on 15th of every month,
- vii. Social media – Mary maintaining Facebook page with updates and events
- viii. Downtown Partnership – Phyllis
 - 1. Next meeting is in February, nothing new to report
- ix. Cultural District –
 - 1. Cultural District is up for approval review in January, as the Mass Cultural Council has not yet met

I. EVENTS -

- a. Second Sunday Speakers – this series is going very well and is accomplishing the goal of increasing attendance, visibility, and community engagement!
 - i. January – Alan Earls to present about the Anarchists’ Bombing in February 1919
 - ii. February – Rob Lawson to discuss the Cultural Construction of American Medicine
- b. Event Subcommittee – plans are finalized for 2019, see H.3.b, above.

J. OLD BUSINESS -

- a. New Logo For Museum – members will review the requested revision in February meeting
- b. Second Sunday speakers – will discuss at the planning meetings, but we will continue to hold this successful and popular series
 - i. Jim Johnston’s presentation in December was well attended, including several of his former students and Representative Jeff Roy
- c. Mary has the strategic assessment from the Archivist (Sarah-Jane Poindexter), which includes some policy recommendations
- d. The sign for the old Horace Mann school is now done and installed – thank you, again, to the FFHM!
- e. ‘Franklin’ Trowbridge piano – work is underway, but holidays have proven to be a delay
- f. Museum Website – work in progress, we can go ahead and re-point and update on the fly, once passwords are worked out
- g. Digital Commonwealth Scanning (Bob) – Bob will continue to work to collect documents
- h. Changes to Demo Delay Bylaw – no progress; need to schedule a follow-up meeting, especially in light of recent attention to Demolition Requests. Need to provide specific advantages to the Town, the demo requestor, and to Gus, as these will give value to the proposed changes. Debbie will continue to file old Demolition request documentation.
- i. Scanning parties – will be held next year in the Spring and Fall, dates will be determined by the planning meeting
- j. iC4K content maintenance – Jeremy still working to figure out how the FTP process works. Almont Green will try to meet with us to help clarify the process.

- k. Rotating contents of display cases is on hold until the Archivist can provide input and guidance.
- l. Progress is being made on the siding work, hope to be done soon

K. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Bob Percy will be leaving the Commission, as he is moving out of Franklin. The Commission thanks Bob for his eighteen years of service, and appreciates that he will continue to volunteer as much as he is able in the future.
- b. Brock Leiendecker, who has recently expressed interest in joining the Commission, could be a good replacement, given his background in Architectural History, but it will be necessary to post the opening in the town office to ensure that other interested citizens are given the chance to express their interest, as well.

L. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS –

- a. Mary reminded everyone that the Ben Franklin's Autobiography Readathon will be held on Thursday, January 17th, to mark the 313th anniversary of Mr. Franklin's birth.

M. ADJOURN - Voted 6-0 to adjourn, 8:00 PM.