



Municipal Building – Town of Franklin
355 East Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes February 19, 2008

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Mona Ghiringhelli
Carol Harper
Debbie Pellegrini
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Meeting Minutes

The Commission offered some corrections, then approved the last meeting's minutes, from 1/15/08, as amended.

Finances

Jeff Nutting has recommended an operating budget of \$2,000. for the Hist. Comm. for the coming year. This larger amount will allow us to obtain more storage boxes and acid-free sleeves for photographs, among other things. Carol provided a draft of the proposed budget for our review.

There is also \$145. in the gift fund left to us by Barbara Smith. (Debbie P. mentioned that she has a large picture of Barbara Smith that may be suitable for display at the Franklin History Center¹.)

Our dues for our continued membership in the New England Museum Association (NEMA) are due (\$75.). Alice plans to send them payment for this.

Correspondence

Susan Nicol has verbally expressed interest in becoming an Associate Member of the Historical Commission.

A member of the Town Conservation Commission asked for information about the construction of the dams on the DelCarte property off Pleasant St. We have not found any information about this at the museum. The Conservation Commission is considering a formal assessment of these dams.

Del A. has obtained an after-hours admission key card for 150 Emmons St. to provide access for Hist. Comm. use.

We received a request from Chris Vericker for information about his house at 63 Dean Ave. Del provided a copy to him of an inventory form, completed in 1985, from our records at the museum.

Del A. presented information about the New England Family History Conference to be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Jordan Rd on March 29th.

Carol received email from a prospective buyer of a house on Pond St. (#574). The house was built in the 1700s. This person wondered whether there were any stylistic restrictions on what they could do with the house. Carol informed them that there were no such restrictions.

Seminars and Resources

Carol received notice from the Mass. Council for the Humanities for a two-session seminar called "A Primer for Small Museums and Historical Societies," being offered on 4/12 and 4/26 in Freetown, Leominster, and Plainfield. Carol and Mona have expressed interest in attending, perhaps at alternate sessions. Attendance for both sessions is \$35.

Carol received email notice from the New England Chapter of the Vernacular Architecture Forum's winter meeting on 3/1 at Old Sturbridge Village. Membership is \$45./yr or \$25. for students. The VAF was formed in 1980 to "encourage the study and preservation of all aspects of vernacular architecture and landscapes, through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary methods." <http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org>.

¹ I am using "Franklin History Center" or "FHC" as the working name of the new museum space. This name has not yet been officially approved.

Temporary Move of Museum Items

Ken Gormley of the DPW will be able to assist us in our move of cabinets from the museum to the work space at 150 Emmons St. This will also involve moving some small number of chairs and work tables from the Franklin History Center across the street.

Debbie P. has been collecting boxes for the museum move.

Del A. and Bob P. agreed to meet at the museum to empty some of the second floor's cabinets we'd like moved to the work space.

Preservation Info

When someone wants to undertake non-emergency rehabilitation work in a house, they need approval from the Mass. State Historical Preservation Office in order to obtain block grant funds for such a project. The Town of Franklin (specifically, the Franklin Housing Rehabilitation Program) has received such a block grant for the downtown area.

This type of program can help keep older homes from being considered unsafe, and therefore, candidates for demolition.

Del reminded us that www.preservationmass.org provides a list of consultants that could assist us with preservation projects.

Tour of New Fire Station

The Hist. Comm. has been invited to tour the new fire station on West Central St., on 3/18 at 7PM.

Town Website

The Town's website is being overhauled. The Hist Comm. will keep tabs on this effort in order to maintain and extend our presence there.

-- Bob P., recording sec'y

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