



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes March 18, 2008

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
David Cargill
Alan Earls
Mona Ghiringhelli
Carol Harper
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Meeting Minutes

The Commission offered some corrections, then approved the last meeting's minutes, from 2/19/08, as amended.

Finances

The New England Museum Association is still expecting our membership renewal form and dues (\$75.) for the coming year. Alice V. plans to send this out

Correspondence

Information Requests

1. Request received from Gary Griffin for information about Woodland Park and Wadsworth Farm.

Woodland Park was an amusement park operating in the early 1900s in North Franklin, along the Charles River. Its location can be identified by typing in "Woodland Park, Franklin, MA in Google Maps or on the Franklin Town Website, under Map. Choose Satellite and zoom in to the location. The site is on property reached from Kadin Lane off Village St. in Medway. There is a bridge that crosses the Charles River. Barbara Smith had a two-page write-up about Woodland Park and it may be among her items yet to be inventoried at the museum.

Information on the Wadsworth Farm exists in the four volumes of the Wadsworth Diaries at the museum and in the Town Library.

2. Don McDermott is looking for old group photos of Clark Cutler employees. A retirement party is planned for his uncle and he is requesting a copy of any photos that may be in the museum collection.
3. Carol received email from the residents of 53 King St., wondering if we have any old photos of that house.
4. Alice V. was asked whether the museum contained any pictures of an inn that used to reside on what is now the Rondo property on Grove St.

Presentation on the Woodward House on the Dean Campus

Brian Kelly, Dir. of Facilities at Dean College and Project manager/consultant Liz Randall attended our meeting to discuss plans for the space currently occupied by the Woodward House (1895) at 143 Emmons St. The plan is to extend the Campus Center at 135 Emmons St. to include a theatre. It was not certain when Dean bought the building. Though the pictures Brian and Liz provided showed that the building's surface was modern, the historical value of its internal structure is not known.

Carol has been in touch with people at greengoat.org in Somerville, MA to investigate ways that the building can be salvaged in whole (by moving it) or in part (by salvaging its building materials).

Town Common

Items to consider for the Common Master Plan – Carol has stepped down as chair of this committee, but hopes to obtain the advice of a landscape architect to assist in the planning process. The Historical Commission is invited to provide input for the Common's overview, vision, and use.

There will be a new sign for the Common, located near the St. Mary's end.

Jeff Nutting hopes that within three months, the Common Committee can provide a master plan to the Town Council for their consideration.

Museum Move

Since our last meeting Del A. and Bob P. met at the museum to empty some of the second floor's cabinets that we'd like moved to the new work space. The DPW was able to move all cabinets except the wardrobe cabinet, which was too large to get down the windy staircase. We will have to clear the broom closet below, and the trap door area above, in order to get this cabinet down.

Update of Scope of Work for Architect – This pertains to the prospective work for the new museum. Carol has been providing input to this process.

Commission members agreed to meet at the old museum on Washington St. at 10AM on Sat. 4/5 to help move items to the temporary work space at the old town offices at 150 Emmons St. The Commission would like to have a wall phone installed in this work area. Del reported that tables and chairs were moved from the Senior Center to this work space.

Carol reports that Lisa Piana, Dir. of Town Planning, met with a landscape architect to examine the entranceway of the new museum at 80 West Central St. Lisa asked if there were any pictures of the entranceway as it was long ago, to help plan the new look of the entranceway. Jean Curran or Jimmy Johnston may have some pictures or ideas about this.

An open question – would the new sign in front of the new museum resemble other town signs or would it be a “period” sign?

Tour of New Fire Station

Chief Gary McCarraher conducted a tour for Commission members, of the new fire station on West Central St., on 3/18 at 7PM. Historic details in the new entranceway from the former Ray Fire Station include bricks from the old station, granite keystones above the windows, and the granite marker that bears the name of the station.

-- Bob P., recording sec'y

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