



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes April 15, 2008

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
David Cargill
Mona Ghiringhelli
Carol Harper
Debbie Pellegri
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, from 3/18/08.

Finances

Nothing new to report.

Guest Reports

Dave Roche, Director of Town Facilities

1. The front of the museum
 - The linden tree has been removed from the front of the new museum.

- Lisa Piana, Franklin Downtown Manager has been working on a landscape design for the front of the museum. David R. provided sketches of the front of the museum. The Commission discussed various different design concepts for the front of the museum: steps running the full width of the front, stairs just in the middle third of the front, wooden railings, composite no-maintenance (polymer and wood mixture) railings, metal railings, a large landscaped area, a smaller landscaped area. David brought samples of decking: a hard gray composite for low maintenance.
 - At Lisa P's request, Del provided an old photograph to her of the new museum (80 West Central St.) to assist in design planning.
 - The front of the building must be easily accessible from the side parking lots.
 - We may want to consider placing some shrubs as a buffer on the left side of the museum lot, alongside the adjacent building.
 - The bases of multiple columns are rotted and need to be replaced.
 - For any scenario, David and 4 or 5 DPW workers will do the work.
2. New Display Cabinets – Tri-County is making good progress.

Lisa Piana, Franklin Downtown Manager

1. The Planning Department has received two contractor bids for the landscaping work. Each contractor will submit a couple of designs. We would like the final design to include shrubs and adequate lighting on the porch and statue.
2. The sculpture will be delivered in Sept. '08. We will need to have the planting done in August.
3. The sculpture has no name at present. Various names were discussed: "Hats Off to Franklin," "Boy With Straw Hat," "Johnny Franklin," and "Our Town."
4. The final sculpture will require book titles on the books near the straw hat boy. Lisa has received various suggestions and is narrowing them down.
5. The new museum sign will include removable letters and removable slats for message signs.
6. What name will the sign show? We'd previously entertained the titles "Horace Mann Museum," "Franklin History Center," and "Franklin Historical Museum." The Commission agreed on the latter name.

Woodward House on the Dean Campus

Since we last met, Bob P. and Mona G. attended a meeting at the Woodward House on the Dean Campus with Brian Kelly, Dir. of Facilities at Dean College, Dean preservation consultant Liz Randall, and Amy Bauman and Richard of greengoat.org of Somerville, MA to ascertain the intrinsic value of the building from a materials standpoint. The greengoat folks did not express much enthusiasm for the building's features. (While the greengoat people were there, we then looked at the Four Corners School (locked) and toured the house on the adjacent lot (also slated for demolition) on E. Central St. They liked the latter.)

Ideally, the building could stay put and become part of Dean's plans for an expanded student center and theatre. Short of that, we would prefer having Dean move the building to another location on campus. Next in priority would be to have Dean sell the building for a dollar to a

willing buyer who could then move the house to another location in town. Next would be to have contractor harvest raw materials from the building, as directed by greengoat. Last in our list of priorities would be to have the building demolished.

Town Common

The Town Council objected to placing a sign near the St. Mary's end of the Town Common. Lisa P. and we felt that a location midway along Main St. side would be ideal.

Museum Move

Commission members met 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. A wall phone has been installed in this work area.

Seminars

Carol and Mona each attended a portion of a seminar hosted by the New England Museum Association.

-- Bob P., recording sec'y

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