



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes May 13, 2008

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
David Cargill
Alan Earls (Assoc.)
Nikki Estey (Assoc.)
Carol Harper
Nicole Nietzel (Assoc.)
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Meeting Minutes

With a correction (Lisa P's title), the Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, from 4/15/08.

Finances

After paying \$240. for alarm services for the old museum, there is \$685. left in the Commission's account.

Given the sheer number of items now at 150 Emmons St., we will need to purchase additional materials for preservation and acid-free storage, including:

- Materials for identifying books physically
- Documents: acid-free folders, covers, and boxes.

We may also want to invest in additional folding tables, perhaps by purchasing some from BJ's Wholesale Warehouse.

We have joined the New England Museum Assoc. (NEMA) again this year by paying the dues.

Projects

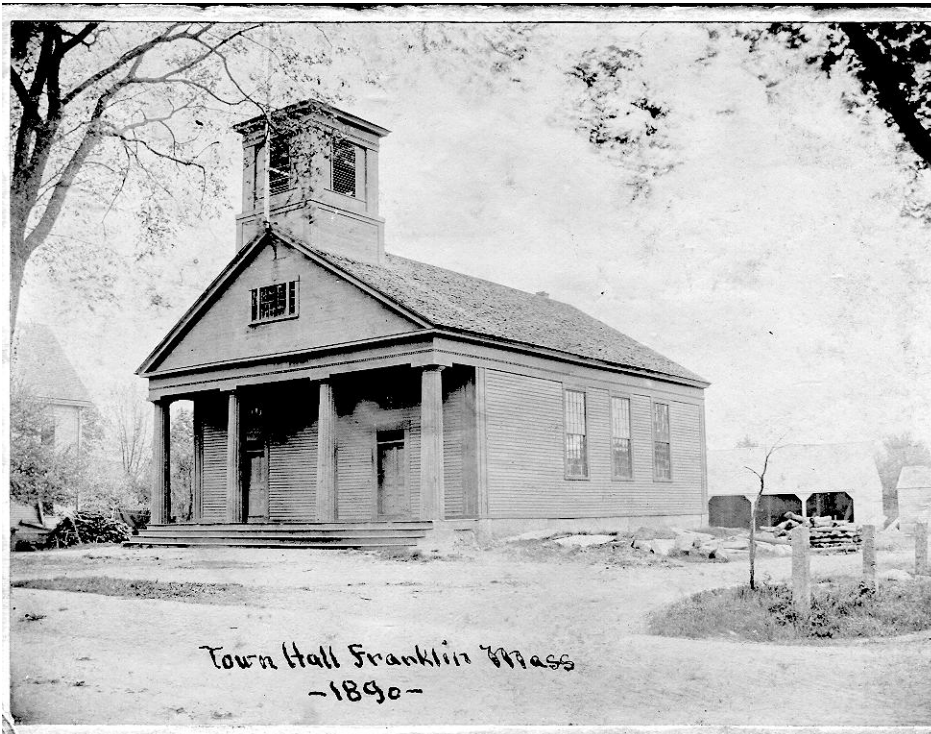
Museum Move

Del reports that he and Bob P. met on 4/25 to transport more items from the 2nd fl. of the old museum on Washington St. to the work area at 150 Emmons St. 99% of all items that need to be moved have been moved. One thing that remains – the bound copies of the Sentinel. Del plans to resume inventory work, but needs additional tables. Carol plans to email Mike D'Angelo to find additional ones.

Because of the museum move, we have decided not to open the museum for viewing this year. At the old museum, we need to cover the hours portion of the sign, so as not to confuse people.

Renovation of New Museum (80 West Central St.)

Director of Facilities David Roche reports that Classic Furniture can apply finish to the display cabinets that will occupy the center of the museum's display space.



The Commission received a proposal from the architect. In the spirit of the original design (photo), the Commissions supports:

- Wrought iron
- Railing with balusters on the sides of the porch only (not the front)
- Steps along the entire front
- No lattice work

Gazebo on Town Common

Work is still planned to renovate the gazebo.

Woodward House

Bob P. provided a brief summary of the meeting he and Carol had with Brian Kelly (Dean College Dir. of Facilities) and Elizabeth Randall (Preservation Consultant to Dean College) concerning the future of the Woodward House (1895). We informed Brian and Liz that the Commission denied their request to demolish the Woodward House. We can delay the demolition of the house for one year, but cannot prevent it. We discussed various alternative scenarios in which the building could be left alone, incorporated into the design for the new theatre, moved to a new location either on campus or off.

Carol urged the Commission to get involved in the streetscape design of the theatre building on the Emmons St. side.

Due to delays in the overall project at Dean, the demolition delay actually makes no impact on the project's current overall schedule. (In the future for other such requests, this may not always be so.)

The MA Historical Commission may call us into Boston to attend a hearing in order to approve Dean's construction bond.

New Members

The Commission hereby extends an invitation to the public to apply to become an associate member of the Historical Commission. Here's what to do: a) pick up a form at the Town Clerk's office, b) send the completed form and a copy of your resume to Franklin Historical Commission, Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038.

Sign on the Town Common

To clarify, this sign is not to be an "announcement" sign, but a cultural sign. It is to be set back from Main St. halfway along the Main St. side.

Archaeology

This summer, Nikki E. will participate in a dig in Montana. Nicole N. will participate in a dig in Newport, RI. Good luck!

Miscellaneous

Carol has received calls from realtors on behalf of buyers who want to know exactly what they can and cannot do to a historic home they would purchase. The Commission may want to write a short document that explains these guidelines.

(Alice V. is the Commission's representative at the Town's Design Review meetings.)

We received notice from the UMass Press that a folklorist will be appearing at the Museum of our National Heritage in Lexington.

We received a request, from the Norfolk Co. Historical Societies and Commissions, to help assemble a book of postcards. We plan to participate.

We received a letter from Dean College, requesting that we amend the Historical Commission meeting minutes of April 18, 2006 to note that Dean College has never owned the Masonic Hall Property. Bob P. will amend the minutes, and forward them to Town Clerk Debbie P., and notify Executive Assistant to the College Sandra Cain when this has been done.

-- Bob P., recording sec'y

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