



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

## Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes June 17, 2008

#### **Attending:**

#### Commissioners:

Del Arnold  
Nikki Estey (Assoc.)  
Mona Ghiringhelli  
Carol Harper  
Debbie Pellegri  
Bob Percy  
Alice Vendetti

#### **Meeting Minutes**

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, from 5/13/08, as drafted.

#### **Membership**

Carol H. is moving to New York State, and has submitted her resignation from the Historical Commission. The Commission expresses its thanks and appreciation for service to the Commission and the Town as Member and then Chair of the Commission. We wish her the best in her new town!

Alan Earls has expressed his intent to become a full Commission member, to fill the vacancy created by Carol's departure. The Commission voted unanimously to approve his request! The Town Council is to consider his application on 7/9.

## **Finances**

Del has already submitted a purchase order (PO) on 6/9 for boxes, storage sleeves, and other packing and preservation materials for the museum's documents and artifacts. Lynn in the Town Recreation Dept. will kindly receive the items when they arrive.

## **Projects**

### *Demolition Requests*

- 14 Ruggles St. – had housed a catering business
- 648 Old W. Central St. – (near entrance to Tri-County Reg. Voc. Tech. School). The Commission reviewed photos of the property. Normally, we would like to save a structure like this, but the interior seems to have suffered.

These two structures are now slated for demolition.

The Town's Housing Rehab Program offices are located at 150 Emmons St. This is a community development block grant program. This organization can provide advice and assistance to us when we consider alternatives to demolition. In each letter of response we make to a demolition request, we should state whether the house "...is/is not a candidate for the housing rehab program." Every house the Housing Rehab Program works on is placed in the Town's list of affordable housing. A community must hold one unit of affordable housing for each 10 units of new housing that the Town approves for construction. If the Town falls short of this 10:1 ratio, grants can be withheld, and construction can stall.

### *Woodward House*

The future of this house is not yet known. Brian Kelly, Dean College Dir. of Facilities is working with the Town's Housing Rehab Program, which has expressed interest in the house.

### *Nat'l Register District Sign on the Town Common*

Through the efforts of Lisa Piana and many others, this handsome sign now stands on the Town Common.



*Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)*

The Town plans to replace the siding and windows of the Museum. We would like to order new windows as soon as possible. We need a contractor to revamp the HVAC system.

It is imperative, particularly for lighting, that we obtain the services of contractors who have experience working on museums. We need to codify this requirement in any Request for Pricing (RFP) documents for this work, and inform Norma Collins as well. Perhaps we should get a \$5K design contract out to bid, in order to work with a designer who can help us:

1. Determine the electrical layout
2. Determine the use of various rooms

Norma may be a great resource in helping us locate the contractors who have the required experience.

We need a security system on the *outside* of the building, as well as inside.

For the display cases, which were built by Tri-County Vocational students, we must have a contractor install lights *\*inside\** them for display purposes.

The main museum space's electrical service must include outlets on the floor (for the display cases to tap into).

Classic Furniture is currently finishing the display cases that were built by students at Tri-County.

To do:

1. Move bound copies of the Sentinel from the old museum on Washington St. to the work area at 150 Emmons St. (Who?)
2. Locate any work tables that we had loaned to the Fire Department, for Del and helpers as they continue inventory work. (Carol will investigate.)
3. At the old museum, cover the “Open” hours so as not to confuse the public about the museum being locked. (Who?)

### *Websites (Commission’s and Town’s)*

Del received a request from Nancy Brown at [www.virtualtownhall.net](http://www.virtualtownhall.net) who is revamping the Town website. She would like to have the Commission’s info to add to it. Nikki E. has the latest version of the Commission’s website on a flash drive. This is the version we should provide to Nancy B. Bob sent an email to Nancy asking the best way to get this info to her.

Del received a research request for the property at 200-204 Union St. Are there any old photos of this property? Del plans to contact Alan E. in case he has come across any.

### *The Historical Commission’s Presence in Town Affairs*

Because the role of Downtown Manager (Lisa Piana) is now gone, the Historical Commission will need to make its presence felt directly. An example: The firm of Weston and Sampson has been hired to do the downtown lighting. We must be aware of such events early enough so as to be able to provide meaningful and timely input, in order to help preserve the town’s historical character.

### *Cataloging the Houses in Town*

We need to continue the effort to catalog the Town’s houses. This involves going to the Norfolk County Courthouse in Dedham to look up records. Perhaps we need to apply for a grant to fund this effort. To find the right person, perhaps an ad in the paper would be appropriate: “to preserve the history of the Town,” and “to become part of Franklin’s history.”

As an aside – the MA Historical Commission uses this as a benchmark when determining whether specific town historical commissions are “active” or not. The State welcomes any and all info about historic dwellings.

*Miscellaneous*

We had 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. amended the minutes, and forwarded them to Town Clerk Debbie P.

Debbie provided Bob with an electronic copy of last year's Historical Commission description for the 2007 Annual Report. This will help Bob write a new version for this year's report, likely due in August.

-- Bob P., recording sec'y

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