



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes August 19, 2008

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Debbie Pellegri
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, from 7/15/08, as drafted.

Commission members are welcome to check the Commission's mail box at the Town Offices, and to notify Commission members of any timely issues before the next meeting.

Membership

The Commission voted unanimously to have Nicole Nietzel join the Commission as an Associate Member.

As of this meeting, the Historical Commission's endorsement of Alan Earl as a full member had not yet come before the Town Council. Debbie P. reported that the proposed date was 8/20.

Finances

No news to report.

Projects

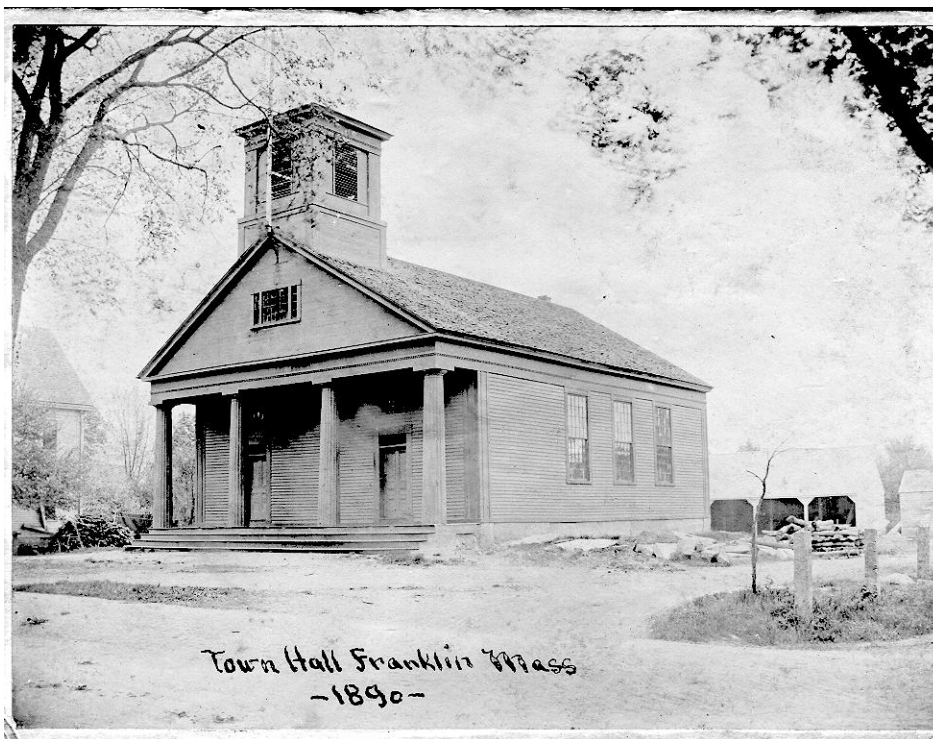
Housing Rehab Requests

None.

Obtaining 501 (c) 3 Status

Debbie P. spoke to Herb Hunter about this effort. He has agreed, when we are ready, to help us create a tax exempt (501 (c) 3) organization to help promote the interests of things historical in Franklin.

Debbie plans to speak with historian James Johnston to attend an upcoming Historical Commission meeting, to discuss the current status of the Franklin Historical Society.



Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

Many architectural firms have shown interest in performing the rehab work at the new museum on 40 West Central St. The winning bidder is Court Street Architects.

Current status of the new display cases: they are being finished at the furniture repair firm on Hayward St. Bob P. will contact them to verify this.

Museum Inventory and Related Items

Del A. reports he has made progress this summer in sorting and cataloging the museum's holdings. Scout Kurt G. is assisting in this effort, as parting of his community service duties for the Scouts. As part of this effort, the paper copies of the Franklin Sentinel were moved from the old museum to the work space at 150 Emmons St. The work space also contains multiple copies of old town reports. We need to decide how many duplicates to save, and how many to relinquish.

Del received a shipment of archival packing and storage materials. In general, adequate table space in the work area is still limited.

The vault in the old town offices has been emptied and is now available for our use. One item the vault had contained – Soldiers Relief Records from 1933 to the early 1960s. Bob Fahey, our veterans agent, recommended that they be destroyed.

As repair work begins on the interior of the new museum, we will need to coordinate with the Franklin Food Pantry, so they can occupy part of the space we are currently using for inventory work. Items already inventoried will move to the vault. Ryan Jette of the recreation department has offered the assistance of youth in the recreation department to help move these items.

The Commission received a call from Mike T. offering the assistance of boy scouts from a troop at the Franklin LDS church. Two scouts at a time would be ideal in this effort.

The scrapbook donated to the museum from Linda Galvao arrived by mail. Many thanks for the wonderful pictures.

Mary Barr of Virginia has requested copies of old Franklin photos to display on the walls of a new Sunshine Senior Housing Unit to be located in Franklin. Del sent her a CD of postcards.

Debbie P. plans to ask Jeff Nutting whether the Commission can start using the storage cabinets in the basement of the new museum.

Recognition of Herman Duval

The new museum will contain some tangible recognition of the museum's original founder, and first curator, Herman Duval. These may include pictures from the museum's original dedication in the early 1970s, at which Herman D. was dressed as Ben Franklin.

Mrs. Duval had dedicated a painting to the Red Brick School. Debbie P. plans to inquire as to its current whereabouts.

Possible Donations

A town resident has asked the Commission whether some items at her house might be of value to the museum. Bob P. plans to contact her to find out the details.

One Bob L. has offered to donate a bell to the town museum. The Commission needs to decide whether it would find a place in the museum.

Fee for Research

The Commission is considering creating a fee schedule for specific requests for research that we receive. While we are glad to provide this service, some requests can be quite time consuming depending on their scope.

Mannekins

Debbie has asked at many stores whether they have any old mannekins they plan to discard. So far none have. Alice V. plans to ask at additional stores. Bob P. plans to find mention of any available mannekins on the Internet.

Town Website

Bob P. plans to be the Commission's webmaster, but requires a password from the consultant who redesigned the Town's website. This will allow us to add the content to be provided by Nikki E. and otherwise expand and maintain the Commission's website.

* ***** ** ** ** ***** *