



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes February 17, 2009

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Alan Earls
Debbie Pellegri
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Visiting:

Diane Brunner

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes, as amended (to add Alice to the attending list), from 1/20/09.

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.

Finances

We have no new bills. Alice submitted the Commission's annual membership fee (\$75.) to NEMA.

Obtaining 501 (c) 3 Status

Herb Hunter may join us at our next Historical Commission meeting to discuss this effort.

New Business

Four Corners Site

Doug Benoit of Arista Development and attorney Richard Cornetta attended this month's meeting concerning plans to construct a Walgreen's store on the site currently occupied by the former Four Corner's School. The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) requires that the parties involved sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that describes how all plan to mitigate the impending demolition of the current structure. The mitigating stipulations include:

- Recordation, to provide photographic documentation of the existing structure
- Post-demolition salvage of the school's cupola
- Creation of an interpretive plaque at the site. (The Commission would like to review possible designs for the sign. It would stand inside the easement area at the intersection of King and East Central Sts.)

The Commission discussed the document's contents, found it to be acceptable, and gave its approval. Other signators will include Arista Development, the Town of Franklin, and the MHC.

Archives Internship

Attending this month's meeting were Nick Allevato, and parents Lou and Donna to discuss Nick's interest in working with Del on tasks related to the Museum's archives and the inventory effort that is underway. Nick attends Tri-County and is studying computer information systems. The Commission appreciated his interest, enthusiastically approved his request to join our efforts, and looks forward to working with him.

Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

We have another meeting, for any Commissioners able to attend, with Joe Rizza of Court St. architects to discuss additional details of the plans for the museum's interior. Del, Debbie, and Bob met with him on Jan 22nd (see separate minutes for that mtg). All is going well.

Museum Displays

Debbie had previously received a call from a Mr. Peterson of New York State. He has a spinning wheel that was used by Horace Mann's second wife, and wondered if we would be interested. We need to get in touch with him to confirm this acquisition.

Debbie mentioned that we will be obtaining two mannequins from Dean College, for use in the museum.

Museum Inventory

New items have appeared at 150 Emmons St.: two clocks and a roll top desk. Debbie also noted that there is a stantion clock in the Town Administrator's office, which will find a home in the new museum.



Museum Wish List

It would be good to have a modern standing display fixture to which we could attach photographs and other flat items.

Commission member Alan Earls has written a book called "Franklin: Then and Now." It is a wonderful book full of old and new photographs of the town. We should have copies available at the museum.

Museum Store

Debbie mentioned some ideas for items the Museum Store could sell:

- Franklin-specific Xmas ornaments
- Ladybug pins (in reference to the Kennedy School)
- Wallhangings of Franklin postcards

Housing Rehab Requests -- None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests – Del received a letter from Vaun Raymond of WA state. His father, Sam Raymond, was a student at Dean in the 1940s. He is working on a video of his father's life. He requested copies of any pictures from our museum that might pertain to his father. He mentioned his father was in a jazz band. Del graciously agreed to handle this research request.

Correspondence

We received notice that there is a great deal of grant money potentially available for refurbishing the gazebo on the town common, perhaps 50K or 150K. Before accepting these kinds of funds, the Commission would like to meet with Jeff Nutting and Mike D'Angelo to discuss the project. Debbie noted that the gazebo's brick had been repaired twice, each time by Tri-County students: it was repointed in 1983, and its roof leaks were fixed in 1987. The roof leaks have surfaced again.

Lee Mulligan is currently working on a documentary film of the town and its history. Alan E. recently spoke to him, and invited him to attend an upcoming Hist Comm meeting to discuss his progress.

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