



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes January 26, 2010

Attending:

Commissioners:

Del Arnold
Dianne Brunner
Alan Earls
Mona Ghiringhelli
Debbie Pellegrini
Bob Percy

Visiting:

Deborah Kreiser-Francis (museum professional)

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the last meeting's minutes from 12/15/09.

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

Debbie P. ordered office supplies for ~\$80 (see Museum Inventory).

Alan E. purchased packing supplies and white archival handling gloves, and will submit these receipt to Alice V.



Refurbishing the Museum (80 West Central St.)

The target date for completion is Feb. 16th. This currently looks on target.

- The painting is all set.
- Cabinets are in the library.
- The hardwood floor is in.
- Track lighting is in.
- Woodwork in the library is very well done, as provided by Tri-County school.
- The lath ceiling has been repaired.
- The framing around some windows is being repaired.
- The Town is picking out a projector for the museum.

It is possible we can have the grand opening on Horace Mann's birthday (May 4th).

Museum Inventory

The office supplies Debbie bought led to the creation of a comprehensive file system for the town, by street name. Any data we accumulate that pertains to a house on a particular street we can place in the street's file. (Records can include demolition requests, research requests, photographs, and historic property inventory forms.)

Debbie was able to obtain free jewelry display cases from TJ Maxx, worth on the order of \$10K. Thanks also to Brutus Cantoreggio and the Franklin DPW for disassembling them and transporting them to storage at the DPW.

Debbie also has some mannekins she obtained from Home Goods.

Museum Move

Alan, Del, and eight or so others packed items at 150 Emmons St. in preparation for the move.

We agreed that boxes arriving in the basement of the new museum will be arranged in the same locations as the items appeared in the old museum, so we'll know where things are.

Museum Intern

Alan sent out queries to many local colleges, and received 3 resumes, including one from Deborah Kreiser-Francis, who is seeking more hands on museum experience. She attended this meeting and said she would like to:

- Help us create educational programming
- Serve as a supervisor for intern volunteers
- Help us formulate a strategic plan for 5 and 10 years into the future, and beyond (starting perhaps at our next regularly scheduled meeting)
- Formulate an interpretive plan, that is, what messages we want to get across about Franklin history.

Grants

Alan succeeded in obtaining a grant for \$150. for a museum display that compares life in Franklin in 1910 and 2010.

Debbie obtained a grant of \$500. From the Franklin Cultural Council, to help cover the cost of the museum opening.

In the future Marlene Oliver may be able to assist us in applying for similar cultural grants.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

We discussed briefly how this organization can make money, perhaps through membership dues.

Many thanks to Herb Hunter for his financial advice throughout the process of creating this non-profit, and to Rep. James Vallee the filing its application to the State.

Debbie had notecards made at Pear Creative Designs, Milford, MA of historic scenes in Franklin. This might be a staple item to sell in the museum gift shop.

Old Museum – Future Use

We discussed the interest that has been shown by some groups to use the old museum, but we need more information about any requirements and guidelines the town may have for its proper use. Bob will ask Jeff Nutting for more information about this.

Historic Property Forms

Bob attended a workshop in New Salem about town efforts to fill out historic inventory property forms. Del reminded us that we currently have 400 completed surveys from the 1970s. We need to have a master map to help us keep track of our progress in this effort.

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests

Del received a research request from Kathleen Ledoux concerning the Franklin railroad depot (built in 1888). She is asking for a meeting with the contractor concerning renovation work on the depot. Design work is not yet complete. Del provided her with copies of old postcard photographs of the depot and a copy of the historic structure inventory form of the depot.

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