



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

## Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

### **Meeting Minutes** **---Interim Meeting---** **March 2, 2010**

#### **Attending:**

##### Commissioners:

Del Arnold  
Dianne Brunner  
Alan Earls  
Mona Ghiringhelli  
Bob Percy  
Alice Vendetti

##### Visiting:

Marlene Oliver

**Note:** This special interim meeting had as its main focus, the ways we can prepare and execute the move of the museum from Washington St. to 40 West Central St. As a result, the agenda items represented only a subset of the agenda items we address at our regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

#### **Finances**

Alan has some expenses to submit.

Members will revisit the list of proposed budget items that appeared in the February 2010 meeting minutes, regarding upcoming needs related to the museum move and opening.

### **Old Museum**

Jeff Nutting and David Roche have proposed that the town sell the old museum building on Washington St. We are trying to locate any documentation pertaining to the conditions under which the Franklin Federated Church allowed the town to use the building. There may be a deed on file in Dedham that would be helpful.

### **Museum Inventory**

Work is progressing well, but we decided to cancel an upcoming meeting for Monday 3/8 at the new museum, because we don't yet have physical access.

The town has agreed to move the new Trowbridge piano to the museum.

### **Museum Move**

Debbie has reportedly arranged the assistance of seven volunteers, each of which has a truck.

### **Strategic Plan**

Alan reports that Deborah Kreiser-Francis has nearly completed her strategic plan for the town museum.

### **Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)**

For the museum opening, Alan contacted Rae Lynn Mercer at the Franklin Center for the Performing Arts as a resource for piano talent. Opening day is still planned for May 15<sup>th</sup> (well positioned between Mother's Day and Memorial Day).

Events – Alan suggested that our third Thursday open house events at the museum be summer lemonade and cookies socials on the porch, to draw visitors and to share stories and memories of the town in days gone by.

Museum displays – Marlene suggested that we consider creating a street scene (costumes, store fronts, cobblestones) inside the museum at some point. Similar displays in other museums (such as Woonsocket's Museum of Work and Culture) are beautiful and effective in creating atmosphere.

### **Web Site**

Alan is researching how to obtain a general email address for the museum.

Alan is looking into having us use a collaboration tool at [www.zoho.com](http://www.zoho.com) that provides a calendar and other resources to improve communication among Commission members during this busy time.

### **Correspondence**

Debbie received historical information about the Trowbridge family of Franklin, from Dick Higgins who grew up in the former Trowbridge homestead, formerly at 132 Main St. (now the library's parking lot at the corner of School St.). He said the Trowbridge piano business once had a storefront on Main St. close to the railroad tracks, in addition to the Trowbridge Piano factory, formerly across the tracks from the train station.

On a related note(!), the Commission voted to acquire the Trowbridge piano kindly offered to us by the McKenna family.

**Housing Rehab Requests – None**

**Demolition Requests** – By way of Building Commissioner David Roche, we received a request from John Colella to tear down the house on 148 Washington St. After reviewing photographs of the property, the Commission agreed to allow the public hearing process to proceed.

Mona G. also brought to our attention an inquiry about the 1738 house at 273 Pond St. Realtor Myriam Siraco had contacted her about the demolition request process. The property is currently bank owned. The Commission discussed the property's age and condition. Bob P. agreed to visit the property to learn more about its condition.

**Research Requests -- None**

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