



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes **---Interim Meeting---** **March 9, 2010**

Attending:

Commissioners:

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

Visiting:

Marlene Oliver

Note: This special interim meeting, as last week's, 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

Mona will touch base with Debbie, currently in FL, to verify our current list of budget items for the coming year.

Old Museum

Del has been researching the status of the agreement under which the Franklin Federated Church ceded use of the old museum to the Town. Jeff Nutting and David Roche are looking for a plot

plan of the old museum. Though they believe a deed exists, they feel a plot plan would be of more use.

Museum Inventory

Stephanie's Treasure Chest Thrift Store located at 11 Main St. is making a Singer sewing machine available to us for \$30. We will consult with Debbie P. when she returns from FL about this.

Museum Move

The last meeting with the architect took place this week.

David Roche and staff will help coordinate moving the stands for the display cases to the main floor, and the work tables to the downstairs. This will have to wait until construction is complete.

Moving day is still slated for 3/27, with a rain date of 3/28 (Palm Sunday).

There was an article about the move in the Milford Daily News (3/6/10), in which Debbie P. figures prominently.

Museum Opening (May 15, 2010)

Alan contacted Charlie "the Tuner" Jackson of Hopkinton, who has agreed to service the museum's current Trowbridge piano (clean and tune).

The list of invitees to the sneak preview will include all people who worked on the museum. (Jeff N. can provide us with a list of these people.) We will also invite the student and teachers of Tri-County who worked on the beautiful display cabinet pedestals and the cabinets and shelving in the library.

We agreed to focus on locating a pianist for the opening, and not attempt to find a person who will play a glass armonica (as invented by Dr. B. Franklin).

Strategic Plan

Alan reminded people that he forwarded email to the Commission (3/3/10) from Deborah Kreiser-Francis' outline of information to help us with the museum in the present and future.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM) – No news

Grants

Stanley Chilson info - Del copied the list of his Franklin films and scene descriptions for each year, and provided this info to Marlene who believes Mr. Chilson's body of work could help bring about a preservation grant.

To locate biographical information about Mr. Chilson, Mona will look up his date of death in the town's vital records, to help us pinpoint the appearance of his obituary in the paper.

Museum displays – At our last meeting, Marlene suggested that we consider creating a street scene (costumes, store fronts, cobblestones) inside the museum. This might be best constructed downstairs in the museum. It is possible that a grant could help bring this about.

Correspondence – None

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests – There is an outstanding request from John Colella to tear down the house on 148 Washington St. We need to place this request in the queue, by arranging for a public hearing to discuss this proposal. Bob agreed to draft the public notice that will appear in the paper, and send it to the Commission for feedback. According to the Town’s Demolition Delay Bylaw, the cost of placing this public notice in the paper is absorbed by the party that owns the property in question.

We also plan to notify the list of property abutters. The town assessor’s office would have this list of names. Mona plans to look into this.

Research Requests -- None

New Business

Prof. Rob Lawson of Dean was recently interviewed on the Franklin Cable channel.

The downtown train depot just reopened as the Dolce Café.

Del agreed to provide a copy of a student written walking tour for Bob who is writing an updated tour.

Historic cataloging of town assets. Del related that this effort was worked on in three eras: the 1970s, the 1980s, and a few years ago when he was instrumental in having the downtown area apply for National Historic District status. He also mentioned that there is a list of houses on which there are historic plaques. (We may be able to mention some of these as part of the walking tour.)

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