



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes March 16, 2010

Attending:

Commissioners:

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

Visiting:

Marlene Oliver

Note: This regularly scheduled Historical Commission meeting, as last week's "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

We have the WB Mason bill for the blinds, and will pass it along to Norma Collins.

We noted in our records that the alarm bill for the old museum has already been paid.

Current stats: funds expended (year to date): \$195.77; funds available: \$1804.23.

It is TBD when we need to submit our upcoming budget to the Town. Debbie will be back next week and can help steer this process.

Last Meeting's Minutes – approved.

Old Museum

Debbie related in past meetings that she had seen a deed pertaining to the agreement under which the Franklin Federated Church ceded use of the old museum to the Town.

Museum Inventory

The DPW will bring the cabinet bases and work tables to the new museum.

Museum Move

We don't yet have key access to the new museum. Mike D'Angelo will provide us with keys. We will need instructions on how to operate the new alarm system.

Del wants to number the cabinets in the basement. Alan proposed a box numbering/receipt system in order to track the movement of items from sources to their destination.

Rather than putting the manikins in the basement, we will move them to a corner of the main display floor, for easier access after the move.

Based on the recent newspaper articles about the move, Mona has received emails from potential volunteers. She passed this info to Alan who is helping coordinate volunteer efforts.

The move is scheduled for Sat., March 27, from 10 to 2. Only closed vehicles are appropriate to use to transport items.

The Historical Commission's Office will be in the new museum's basement.

Preparation for Opening

Cabinet displays – We will need to winnow what we provide in each display case, pack and label carefully what we remove, then provide new card labels for the items that remain in each case. Marlene knows someone at the MFA in Boston who may be able to assist.

Wall displays – We will need to decide on which pictures to hang and where. It'd be best to open with a limited subset of pictures, then add more later according to our needs and to support specific themes.

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).

Museum Opening (May 15, 2010)

Del has begun work on creating a guest list. We'll make it RSVP. Bob will help supplement the guest list by adding the names of clergy in town, and send them to Del and Debbie.

For the museum, we need to purchase and display the following items:

- a guest book
- a framed picture of Herman Duvall
- a framed picture of Barbara Smith (The Federated Church may have a good photo of her. Mona will contact them.)
- a plaque that summarized the purpose of the museum, in two sentences or so, to hang near the guest book. Bob agreed to draft some words for it.

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

Current stats: Funds expended (year to date): \$90. (for checks); funds available: \$510. These funds, among other things, will be used to stock the new gift shop.

Grants -- None

Correspondence – None

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests

Bob will further the process for the demo request from John Colella to tear down the house on 148 Washington St., by:

- Contacting Maxine about the availability of the Council Chambers for this hearing
- Contacting Ann on the Board of Assessors to identify abutters, and to tell us who typically notifies them.

We've received no new demo requests.

Research Requests -- None

New Business

None

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