



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes May 18, 2010

Attending:

Commissioners

Present:

Del Arnold
Dianne Brunner
Mona Ghiringhelli
Debbie Pellegrini
Bob Percy
Alice Vendetti

Absent: Alan Earls, Marlene Oliver

Visiting:

Collette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Mary Olsson

Finances

Nothing to report.

Last Meeting's Minutes – None – previous meetings had been of the “interim” variety for planning the opening.

Commission Membership

We need to select officers for the Commission.

Debbie distributed instructions for Commission members, for completing an online form that pertains to avoiding conflicts of interest.

Bob agreed to centralize all Commission folks' contact information, and email it to all.

The Commission voted unanimously to accept the following people as Associate Members of the Historical Commission:

Colette Ferguson
Connie Lawson
Mary Olsson

Congratulations and Welcome!

Museum Opening (May 15, 2010)

Our unofficial count of visitors for opening night at the museum (5/14/10) was about 200. Congratulations to all for a wonderful opening to an impressive and important public landmark.

Museum Operation

An "OPEN" sign with hours has been added to the Museum sign in front.

Do we need a permanent doorstep mechanism, or just a physical object?

We had been missing a CPU (but it was provided soon after this meeting).

Some people at opening night weren't sure they were allowed in the library area. We need to create a sign that makes it clear they are welcome to enter.

The movie projector is having problems. We need to contact Jim Rapoza.

We need to move the copy machine from Emmons St. to the Library Room

There are still items at the old town hall across the street that need to be moved to the Museum. We had discussed doing this as a box by box effort by pedestrians, but due to safety reasons, we need to treat it as a carload by carload effort. Items from Emmons St. include books, Franklin Sentinel newspapers, and clothing.

There are also items at the DPW on Hayward St. There may also be some items at the Old Museum on Washington St.

Mike D'Angelo has information for us about how to regulate the building's heat and air conditioning.

Museum Hosting

When hosting on June 12 the rear door was found not completely closed. Please close door completely and check when leaving.

First time volunteers should be informed that the key can be picked up at the fire station and that hosting information is provided for them at the visitors sign in desk. This has been available

since opening and is now subject to update from comments. Please review the latest edited copy at the meeting and pass changes to Del. First timers should be met at the museum and given a quick training by a Commission member.

To do: create some tags for museums hosts to wear, to identify them as hosts.

We need a way to make our hosting calendar available to anyone who wants to consult it. Perhaps Google Calendar can do this. We need a way to send a reminder email to upcoming hosts. Google Calendar may be able to do this too. Alan and Bob will look into this.

We discussed recruiting hosts at the Senior Center, a great idea.

Bob agreed to copy a museum key and leave it at the fire station for hosts to use.

Museum Interns

What is the availability of interns to assist us?

- Deborah Kreiser-Francis
- Alan's contact from Mansfield

Lindsey Steward is volunteering at the museum on Thursday and Saturday to work on organizing the library. There are a lot of books, reports, old Franklin Sentinels, etc that are still in storage at 150 Emmons and have to be moved to complete similar sets in the library.

History

A poster displaying Franklin soldiers killed in Vietnam was donated by Rose Turco for display on Memorial Day weekend. This was prepared and displayed at this year's breakfast for veterans. There are also some scrapbooks with pictures of Franklin servicemen that will be digitized and stored on CDs. A copy of these will be given to the museum.

Del provided information to the Milford Daily News reporter for a Memorial Day article including details about WWII soldier Daniel McCahill.

A donation of a 100+ year old photo album was made on June 12. It has pictures of the Ray Family and many local views. (Who donated this?)

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

We have been receiving donations for the FFHM.

Museum Programs

The Franklin Downtown Partnership has announced the Historical Museum will offer tours and old-fashioned lemonade on the porch with entertainment by Jack Murray for the Third Thursday/Strawberry Festival on June 17.

- Are there enough people to cover this event (3)?
- Do we need to purchase lemonade and other materials (cookies, paper cups, napkins)?
- Are food and beverages allowed *in* the museum?

School Visits - Create a scavenger hunt. Debbie is in touch with Steve Sherlock who might be able to help in this area.

Publicity

There are many opportunities for getting the information out to the public.

- We might want to send our open hours to the Boston Globe West.
- Cable Channel 8 requires information in a form to be submitted every two weeks and left at the studio on 13 Main Street . Del will help the publicity subcommittee get started by leaving the information for the first run. Forms will be left for the meeting.
- The Community Bulletin Board on Cable Channel 11 is controlled by the town and inputs should be presented to Maxine or someone at the Municipal Building .
- Prepare a brochure about the new museum and distribute to other nearby museums and local public places.
- Contact museums in nearby towns, and send them our brochure.
- Contact the schools to arrange for student visits. The best way: contact the principal at each school.
- Submit information to the Franklin Gazette's Event Listings section.
- We may be able to use the signs at Clark Square and Four Corners.

Website

There is an ongoing need to provide content about the Commission and the Museum.

Grants -- None

Correspondence – None

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests -- None

New Business -- None

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