



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

## Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes August 17, 2010

#### **Attending:**

##### Commissioners

##### Present:

Del Arnold  
Dianne Brunner  
Debbie Pellegri  
Bob Percy  
Alice Vendetti

Absent: Alan Earls, Mona Ghiringhelli, Marlene Oliver

##### Associates

Colette Ferguson  
Connie Lawson

##### Visiting

Lindsey Stewart

#### **Finances**

No bills were received or paid this month.

**Last Meeting's Minutes** – Approved.

#### **Commission Membership**

Lindsey Stewart would like to become an Associate Member of the Historical Commission. (Prospective Associate Members need to a) send a letter of request to the Town Clerk and b) meet with the Town Administrator Jeff Nutting.)

## **Commission Subcommittees**

We need to define clearly our subcommittees, so we know who can follow up on a particular task. Bob will put together a working list, based on past meeting minutes and discussions, so we can define these subcommittees at our next meeting. We can then add 'Subcommittee Reports' to the meeting agenda each month.

## **Museum Operation**

- Del has finished making DVD copies of the Stanley Chilson films for hosts to play at the museum during open hours. We should consider keeping them in a locked box.
- Del made up a three ring binder called "Stanley Chilson Movies Scene Information" to allow hosts to preview the contents of the DVDs before playing them.
- Visitors seem hesitant to enter the Library Room. We need a Welcome sign to let them know the room is for them to use.
- We've received the cables necessary to operate the DVD player.
- We now have a land line phone at the museum (in the Library). It's 508-520-4983. Dial 9 to get out.

## **Museum Inventory**

- The DPW moved seven steel shelving units, two unassembled wood shelves, two tables, and the copier from 150 Emmons St. to the Museum. The shelves are needed to provide storage for the remaining items stored at 150 Emmons St. prior to moving these items to the Museum. The tables should remain clear and used only for sorting, identifying, and cataloging items. The copier is now available for use in the library.
- Thanks to help from Alan E. Eamon E. M., Lindsey S., and youth from the Recreation Department, almost 85% of the stored museum items at 150 Emmons St. have now been moved to the Museum basement.
- Lindsey S. took inventory of our book collection. She will provide the list to Debbie P. Perhaps we could post this list on the web a) to let people know what information they can find, and b) perhaps to encourage people to donate books of a similar nature to the Museum.
- Thanks to Lindsey for all her work at the Museum this summer. Her tasks included:
  - Labels for library shelves
  - New labels for some artifacts
  - New labels for old books, such as school committee minutes
  - Inventoried all town reports and yearbooks, upstairs and downstairs
  - Created an inventory of donated books
  - Hosted at the Museum

All her inventory data is in the PC on the left as you enter the library.

- The Washington St (Old Museum) items: Thanks to Mary O., Connie L, and Colette F. for providing photos and a list of the items remaining at the Horace Mann Museum building. We need to decide what to keep and what to discard. Colette plans to call Marlene so she can participate in this process.
- Bob P. visited Ken Gormley at the DPW to see what fire related items they were storing for us: building materials from the Ray Library, including 3 palettes of red brick and granite keystones, the brass fire pole and accompanying floor enclosing ring, all the iron

pieces of a 12 or so foot section of spiral staircase, and the cupola from the top of the Four Corners School. We discussed possible uses for the latter, including enclosing a port-o-potty at a town playing field.

- Some Commission members are planning to meet at 150 Emmons St. to bring items remaining there to the basement of the Museum.
- Del received a call from Elizabeth Brunelli, former Commission member, offering an item for the Museum collection: a colorful handmade Indian head bonnet made for her husband who was a member of the Order of Redmen in Franklin. She will prepare descriptive information and have it presented some Sunday afternoon in the near future.
- Though not a museum item: the Spanish American War cannon that had been on the Town Common is now at the DPW, and in need of paint. (It has been sand blasted to remove rust and corrosion.) Based on some pictures the Commission reviewed of other similar cannons, we voted to have the cannon painted black, and placed on some kind of small pedestal when it returns to the Common. Kevin Carlo paints cars, and may be able to do this work.

### **Museum Interns**

- It is possible that Dean College will make interning at the Museum part of course work at the College.
- Debbie P. may know of someone at Franklin High School who could help us spread the word about the need for interns there.

### **Museum Programs**

- Bob and Alan will touch base about past and future activities and events for the Museum.

### **Publicity**

- Mary Olsson expressed an interest in publicity, and said she would be glad to spearhead this area sometime after 10/1.
- Channel 5 show Chronicle plans to visit Franklin, to do a story about revitalizing downtowns. Colette plans to purchase mums (and watering can) for the front of the Museum, and Del will meet the film crew at the Museum.

### **Museum Hosting**

- Debbie finds it easier to keep track of the hosting schedule in hardcopy, and to email it to the fire dispatcher each month, rather than use the Google calendar.
- Debbie reports that volunteers have been many.
- The procedure list for hosts is sometimes overlooked. Debbie will email it out to hosts.
- This Thursday is third Thursday. A group will demonstrate how to spin wool. Debbie has called the paper about this.

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

- There is currently \$2,864. In this account.
- Visitors have been using Dianne's donation box

**Website**

We need to provide a description about the new museum. Del agreed to help craft a new description.

**Bylaws**

Bob has agreed to draft a clause to the Demolition Delay Bylaw, for Historical Commission review, that would allow the Commission to screen demolition requests before they proceed to a public meeting. This process has served all well for years, and is time- and cost-effective. The Town Council would need to approve this revision.

**Grants -- None**

**Correspondence – None**

**Housing Rehab Requests**

Del received a call from Dan Nichols at RGB Architects concerning a plan to enclose the Franklin Post Office loading dock. He asked if there were any restrictions on the choice of materials that might be imposed by the Historical Commission. Del responded, on behalf of the Commission, that there were no such restrictions or controls on such a project on this building.

**Demolition Requests –**

The Commission had received a request for approval to demolish the structure at 763 Lincoln St. We sent a letter to David J. Megna of East Coast Homes, stating that we had no objection.

**Research Requests -- None**

**New Business**

Building Commissioner David Roche feels the old museum building, the Old South Meeting House, is unsafe. The heating system has to be updated, among other things. He cannot issue an occupancy permit until it is safe.

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