



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

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes May 17, 2011

Attending:

Commissioners

Present:

Del Arnold
Alan Earls
Mary Olsson
Debbie Pellegrini (Chair)
Bob Percy (Secretary)

Absent:

Dianne Brunner
Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)

Associates

Colette Ferguson
Connie Lawson
Marlene Oliver
Kai Olsson

Absent:

Eamon McCarthy Earls
Mary O'Neill

Key:

→ = an action item

A→ = a resolved action item

Finances

No bills were received or paid this month.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved, as amended.

Commission Membership

In her capacity as Town Clerk, Debbie swore in Mary Olsson as Commission member and Kai Olsson as Associate Member. Congratulations!

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Communications – (Bob, Alan, and Mary O'Neill)**

Marlene volunteered the services of her husband Bob to work on the Museum brochure. Bob P. will email the latest draft files to her.

Mary Olsson has received many beautiful submissions for the contest to create a logo for the Museum. She presented those she had received. When all submissions have been received (some remain to be submitted), we will decide which is best. It is unlikely that this will be finalized before the Strawberry Festival next month (June).

⊗ **Document Preservation and Policies – (Alan, Connie, Del, and Eamon)**

Del has begun working on writing a short procedure about using our new equipment. This will be useful for interns or anyone not familiar with it.

Alan has been working on filling gaps in our coverage of Franklin High School yearbooks.

→We should be on the list of recipients for Dean College year books.

→We need to state in our brochure, and on the web, which information we have available on microfilm, and that one can view this information by appointment. (We would schedule these appointments when we knew a Historical Commission member was hosting.)

It would be good to write a short procedure for using the new equipment, especially for interns who will use it.

→From last time: A proposed project – to scan some of the scrapbooks we have, create copies, then display the copies. Is this something we want to pursue? If so, who can coordinate this?

→Also from last time: From the FHS, we could borrow FHS yearbooks we are missing, and scan copies of them. Is this something we want to pursue? If so, who can coordinate this?

Del reported that Debbie had had Stella Jeon's interviews copied in duplicate onto DVD for the Museum. Duplicates are now in the Library Room; original VCR tapes and DVD copies are downstairs.

Internet connectivity at the Museum – Del had issued a work order to investigate it.

⊗ **Events - Debbie, Colette, Mary O'Neill, Eamon**

Mary Olsson agreed to write a brief description of the Town birthday celebration held at the Museum.

The Strawberry Stroll (Festival) will be held on Thurs. June 16th. We agreed to provide lemonade and perhaps strawberry themed cookies. We also discussed wearing some kind of rural attire or head gear.

We did not received any responses to our call to have people display their collections, so we will not have this event.

Debbie has been receiving a great deal of interest from people who want to lend us wedding dresses for our June display.

We would like to have some kind of Civil War event for the third Sunday of July (7/17). We need to coordinate with Alan on this. He is in touch with a reenactment group from N. Attleboro.

⊗ **Grants - Marlene, Alan**

Marlene will be getting back in touch with her contacts in Boston about future grants.

⊗ **Hosting - Debbie, Mona**

Three classrooms of fifth graders plan to visit on Wednesday May 25th. Anyone can drop by to assist.

⊗ **Intern Coordinators – Alan**

Rob Lawson is in the process of selecting an intern.

⊗ **Museum Displays - Del, Alice, Dianne, Colette**

Debbie and Ron P. finished installing the Plexiglas covers for our display case drawers. They look great! We discussed inserting some kind of peg or screw in the back of each drawer so that the glass would stay inserted in the slot in the drawer's front plate.

→Who can do this?

⊗ **Museum Operations - Del (inventory, requests), Alice (finances), Dianne**

We approved the use of \$1008. from the Commssion's account to pay for the Plexiglas for the cabinet drawers.

The Town Controller notified Debbie that there is \$95. in a gift account that was donated on Barbara Smith's behalf.

(In general, if a purchase for the Museum is under a certain amount, we can simply purchase the materials at Staples (for example), then submit receipts to the Commission for reimbursement.)

We discussed again possible ways to prevent displayed pictures from curling. Marlene recommended that they be displayed on acid free boards and in sheeting that blocks out UV rays. Alan suggested scanning the originals, printing out copies, and displaying the copies. We also

discussed having a meeting with surrounding towns, to which we could invite a speaker from NEMA. Marlene may know of someone at the Boston MFA that we have invite as well.

⊗ **Publicity – Colette, Mary Olsson, Mary O'Neill**

→Colette plans to write an article to have people contact a Historical Commission member if they will be disposing of items that are old.

⊗ **Website – Bob, Mary Olsson, Alan, and Connie**

Mary Olsson and Bob will be meeting with Steve Sherlock to develop our new website.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

The FFHM account stands at \$3100.

Correspondence (see other sections)

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests

We received a letter and supporting information from Jeff Nutting, by way of Building Commissioner David Roche, requesting approval to demolish the structures currently owned by the Town at 87 Grove St., site of the former NuStyle jewelry manufacturing facility. After reviewing the information, the Commission approved the request. Bob will inform David Roche and Jeff Nutting in writing of this decision.

Research Requests

We received an information request about the Rail Trail effort. Alan will respond to Steve Sherlock who sent it to us.

Del is researching prior ownership of 31 Hayward St. It was built around 1900, and has housed many businesses since then. (One of the current tenants wanted to know.)

New Business

Debbie has been in touch with the owners of the shopping mall on E. Central St. They like the idea of the cupola.

Plans to expand the Horace Mann commemoration site to include the cupola from the Four Corners School: The Town will be examining the structural integrity of the cupola.

The Spanish gunboat gun from the Spanish American War will be reinstalled on the Town Common soon.

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