

# Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

## Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2012

*Commissioners Present:* Del Arnold, Marlene Oliver, Debbie Pellegrini (Chair), Bob Percy (Secretary), Alice Vendetti (Treasurer), Mary Olsson. *Absent:* Alan Earls.

*Associates Present:* Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Mary O'Neill. *Absent:* Eamon McCarthy Earls, Kai Olsson.

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

**Commission Membership** -- Nothing pending.

Three members of the Franklin Master Plan Committee joined us (Tim Twardowski, Roger Denny, Nick Alfieri), They are the subcommittee responsible for the town's natural, historical, and cultural assets, with Tim T. as Chair. Their goal is to create a policy document meant to guide the growth of the town, with a draft due to the Town Council in the summer of 2013. They wanted to let us know they are open to our suggestions and requirements regarding the town's historical assets and awareness. They are holding two public meetings: 5/9, 7PM at the Municipal Bldg, and 5/19, 10AM at the Town Library. Possible items for discussion are:

- additional efforts in historic preservation
- fundraising efforts
- add'l bylaws for historical preservation (changes in zoning bylaws)

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A new subcommittee – Strategic Plan (see below).

### ⊗ **Communications – (Bob)**

Bob and Mary Olsson are editing Lindsey's Visitor's Guide document, but not rewriting it. Mary will work with Lindsey on some portions of it. We are planning to make it available to give to museum visitors in some form early this summer.

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

We are still examining the PastPerfect video Del gave us.

Debbie brought in "Account of Shepard G. Wiggin": a Civil War veteran from Franklin. We'll put this downstairs for the time being.

### ⊗ **Events – (Debbie, Colette, Connie)**

Debbie handed out a proposed events calendar for 2012. We discussed providing fewer displays, with more preparation and events for each. This would allow for more information gathering and to pass this along in the way of signage.

Del noted some upcoming downtown events: the Strawberry Festival is June 7, Harvest is Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. We discussed Bell Ringers and Chorus for Nov. 29th.

⊗ **Finance and Budget – (Debbie)**

We discussed the need for piano tuning, and plastic sheet protectors [??]

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Marlene suggested working with Bank of America and through the Nat'l Trust for Historic Preservation (this is how BoA would prefer to work). Giving membership \$\$ to the NTfHP would entitle us to apply to them for grants. There was a motion to register as members of the NTfHP, in order to open this channel for applying for grants. (Motion is TABLED.)

Rockland Trust gives local grants.

Marlene will brainstorm Kate Coyne about out how to move ahead.

A motion - that Marlene submits a grant proposal for a two-year grant for a curator. The motion PASSED.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Debbie will create a hosting calendar for May.

Mary O'Neill agreed to contact our new set of potential volunteers, and to match their interests with our projects. Some may want to host, others do other things. (Perhaps we need to rename this subcommittee to 'Hosting and Volunteers'?) Mary O'N will call volunteers to gauge their interest in researching these areas:

--wedding dresses

--swimwear

--military uniforms

Marlene is working with a student at Ursaline Academy on a film related project. Bob provided Marlene the raw footage we took of two chats with town resident Ken Derosier. She may also want some or all copies of the Chilson films. Bob agreed to assist in copying films as needed.

⊗ **Museum Display – (Colette, Connie, Alice, Debbie)**

We agreed to extend the display of "Victorian Secrets" from 5/19 until the end of May.

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

Nothing new to report.

⊗ **Outreach School Community – (Bob, Alan, Debbie)**

(For volunteer activity, see Hosting.)

Pandora Colucci works at Lifelong Learning, and manages Franklin High School reunions (currently the Class of 1957's 55<sup>th</sup>). We discussed making that gathering at the Museum be a regular part of any such reunion.

⊗ **Publicity – (Mary Olsson)**

Mary Olsson wrote an article for the Franklin News. (about the “Victorian Secrets” display).

We need to bring our pictures and articles together about this display, to keep at the museum.

⊗ **Strategic Plan – (Mary Olsson, Connie, Bob)**

We have met with museum consultant Kate Coyne to discuss first steps for creating a plan of action for the next 4 or 5 years.

⊗ **Website – (Bob, Alan, Mary Olsson)**

Mary has added to the Facebook page for the Museum. Nothing new about the Museum website (Bob).

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

Current balance is \$3,240.

**Housing Rehab Requests** – None

**Demolition Requests** -- No new requests.

**Research Requests** – None

**New Business** -- None.

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