

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2012

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Alan Earls, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini (Chair), Bob Percy (Secretary). *Absent:* Marlene Oliver, Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)
Associates Present: None. *Absent:* Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Kai Olsson, Mary O'Neill.
Visiting: Alan Procknow, student at Dean College

Alan P. discussed with us his plans to use the Museum's resources to study the history of industry in Franklin, and plans to conclude his project with a PowerPoint presentation at the Museum later this year. He said he would put together some information about his project and email it to us.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved.

Commission Membership -- Nothing pending.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Communications – (Bob)**

Bob will send a thank you to Jean Cataldo of Wrentham for her kind donation to the Museum's Gift Shop, of twenty prints of the Red Brick School, of a sketch by A. Zandbergs (1983).

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

Debbie has been in contact with Casey Sawyer of Electronix Redux Corporation in Norfolk. They have two microfilm readers we may want to look at. Bob agreed to contact them to have a look.

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

Harvest Fest – (Downtown event) Sunday 9/30. Museum will be open 11AM to 4PM. Commission volunteers need to help host. We'll have an antique cars display. Mary Olsson plans to bring cider and healthy cookies.

Military uniform display. Goal: to have it open on Veteran's Day (Sunday 11/11). We would like to devote a display case to smaller military related items.

BFC Charter School and David Thayer School fifth graders are planning to have a Living History presentation later in the year, in which students portray people from the past. We discussed connecting with that project in some way.

⊗ **Finance and Budget – (Debbie)**

Nothing new.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Nothing new.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Debbie will distribute the hosting calendar for October.

Del plans to add instructions for hosts, when accepting donated items. We can send this out with each month's hosting schedule.

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

Mary Olsson is editing the FHM Museum Guide, as provided to us by Lindsey Steward.

On Winter St. is a former straw mill that may contain straw mill items of interest to the Museum.

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

We plan to keep the red cabinets (the ones in the rear of the basement).

Also downstairs - we have organized and designated the room next to the file cabinet room as the Clothing Room. Military uniforms are upstairs.

Tools in the cabinet? We can get purchase some inexpensive ones, such as at Ocean State Job Lot.

Keys – Mary Olsson plans to label our collection of keys.

Museum Operations and Guide - absolutely necessary to have (says Del)

- Alan provided this, but feels as though it's cumbersome.
- Alan put this together from various sources
- We can use this as source material plus the sample Procedures Guide Kate Coyne had provided to us.
- We should add a key control system to the Operations Guide.
- Alan suggested investigating establishing a document repository system on the web that we could share and add to as need be.

⊗ **Outreach to Schools, Community – (Bob, Alan, Debbie)**

Based on questions Bob had raised about the various levels of historical designations for buildings:

- Del provided a three-ring binder of the Town's roll of historic places (now on reference in the Museum's Library Room).
- We determined that at a national level (National Register of Historic Places), there are three such places in town: The Franklin Town Common Historic District, Dean College, and the Red Brick School. There are no restrictions, but there are tax benefits if they are kept preserved.
- There is also a State list of historic places. This list is also in a three-ring binder in the Library Room.

⊗ **Publicity – (Mary Olsson)**

Mary is writing many articles for the Museum and upcoming events.

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

Nothing new.

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

Alan mentioned that the Civil War research website, as created by FHS students under the direction of history teacher John Leighton is looking for a new home. We would love to include this wonderful material on our site.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

The Museum needs its own stationery. We will contact Bob Oliver to see if he can provide black and white letterhead stationery for us.

Housing Rehab Requests – None.

Demolition Requests -- None

Research Requests

New Business