

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2012

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Marlene Oliver, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy (Secretary).

Absent: Alan Earls, Debbie Pellegrini (Chair), Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)

Associates Present: None. *Absent:* Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Kai Olsson, Mary O'Neill.

Visiting: Rae Lynn Mercer of the Franklin School of the Performing Arts

Visiting today was Rae Lynn Mercer of the Franklin School of the Performing Arts. She expressed her interest in using the Old South Meeting House on Washington St. as a storage space for their school. Some notes:

- They intend to use the space for storing theatrical sets and props for productions.
- She has a crew that moves sets. They would be interested in doing upkeep on the outside of the building. They think they could also take care of the sagging floor.
- They would like to remove the pews. These would not be removed from the building.
- They would like to use one of the windows near the rear of the church for loading and unloading the items on trucks. This would require temporarily replacing the sashes of the window opening with some kind of secure dual doors that open out. The largest pieces they would have to move in and out are 4' x 8' x 1.5'.
- She said they have insurance coverage for offsite purposes (outside of their school).
- She is hoping to be able to use the space no later than 12/15 this year, to help them prepare for their holiday events. (They have to be out of their current storage space on Lincoln St. by the end of the year.)
- We did not discuss rent, or rental rates, but mentioned the likely need to sign a written agreement, as authorized by the town, and which would contain terms.

Rae Lynn then left and we discussed the options. We concluded that her use of the space is acceptable, but only within the following guidelines:

1. That there remains the capability for restoring the space exactly to what it was: specifically the back window turned door opening and the repositioning of the pews.
2. That the use of the space not aggravate or complicate the current or pending legal dispute about the building's disposition.
3. That the space be used for assembly and storage only, and not as a workshop. The latter would entail storing harmful and dangerous materials which we would not allow.

The next step is to obtain input from the Town Administrator.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved.

Commission Membership -- Tonight was supposed to be election of officers according to our Bylaws. There's also a possible need to amend the bylaws (officers need to be replaced after 2 years), can resume after a break of one year.

In general, it might be a good meeting practice, to solve issues specific to a subcommittee offline at a separate confab, instead of at the monthly meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Communications – (Bob)**

Nothing new.

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

Kasey Donahue's cataloging project - Alan reports work is progressing well.

Alan McKintrick of Wrentham loaned us some very old Franklin deeds that had been given to the Wrentham Museum. Del scanned them, so we have electronic copies of them now.

Mary Olsson and Bob expressed an interest in getting up to speed in our implementation of PastPerfect. (The software is on the museum laptop downstairs.) Either with Del or Alan.

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

Possible future lecturers: Rob Lawson recently gave a talk at the Senior Center about the history of Jazz. Mary may want to ask him if he'd be interested in giving a talk with us.

Holiday Stroll 11/29 4 to 8PM. Del will open. Publicity was through the Downtown Partnership. Mary will ask Alan E to ask Alan P if he would be interested in lecturing that night.

A Christmas Carol -- tickets will be available on 11/15. Mary Olsson will also have tickets. We will publicize that the tickets are on sale at the museum. All proceeds will go to the Franklin Food Pantry. The performer Mr. LePage describes it as "Not fundraising, but friendraising." The performance begins at 7PM. We'll be open that night 5 to 7, serving light snacks.

⊗ **Finance and Budget – (Debbie)**

Nothing new.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Waiting to hear from Bank of America. It's been 6 or 7 weeks. They'll contact us with the result. We applied for just the one grant (a part time curator).

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Hardcopy calendars have been working out. Could a phonecall reminder help on the day? We suggested including the one-page description for accepting donated items (the same paper that is on the cover of the binder). Mary will give a copy to Debbie for her to replicate.

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

Nothing new.

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

Keys – Del has been working on the key control system.

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

Nothing new.

⊗ **Publicity – (Mary Olsson)**

Milford Daily news printed a nice article (10/16) about our efforts to catalog the museum's inventory. The author Matt Tota interviewed Del and Mary Olsson for the interview.

Del reports that Franklin cable is considering short daily presentations. Would like brief comments about brief Franklin history. "Did you know that...?" kind of info.

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

Nothing new.

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

Bob will continue to try to connect with FHS history teacher John Leighton to help find a home on the web for the Civil War research website his students created.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Nothing new.

Housing Rehab Requests – None.

Demolition Requests -- None

Research Requests

New Business