

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2012

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini (Chair), Bob Percy (Secretary). *Absent:* Alan Earls, Marlene Oliver, Alice Vendetti (Treasurer)
Associates Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson. *Absent:* Eamon McCarthy Earls, Kai Olsson, Mary O'Neill.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved as amended.

Commission Membership – Debbie distributed a draft of an amended version of the Franklin Historical Commission By-Laws for us to review. At issue are the restrictive guidelines that limit associate members to 7 (would raise it to 9) and that limit the Commission's officers to two consecutive years as officers (would change this to a majority vote to continue in office).

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Communications – (Bob)**

Nothing new.

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

Kasey Donahue's cataloging project is progressing. He is finding the new locations of many items.

Alan has also been meeting with Dean student Alan Procknow, regarding his project about Franklin's part in the industrial revolution.

Marlene has been in touch with a gentleman in Wrentham who is Stanley Chilson's nephew, who has many memories to share about him and his uncle's outings to film Franklin. Bob will contact franklin.tv to set up a time when we can share his memories with us on film.

Mary Olsson, Bob, and Connie were working on material for a standard operating procedures book. There was already one called "Policies and Procedures" from 2009. It may be in online form somewhere – Del will investigate.

We received a request from Massachusetts Sesquicentennial Commission of the Civil War for Civil War era items held in repositories in Massachusetts. They want to compile a list of items held by Historical Commissions to aid future historians who are researching Massachusetts' role in the Civil War.

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

The Downtown Holiday Stroll will take place on 11/29 from 4 to 8PM. Del will open, Bob is hosting. At the museum will be Mrs. Claus. Alan Procknow will give a talk that night about his project. Colette will provide cookies and beverages.

A Christmas Carol -- tickets are available. All proceeds will go to the Franklin Food Pantry.

Possible future lecturers: we would very much like to have local author and associate commissioner Eamon McCarthy Earls give a talk at the museum about his new book "Franklin: From Puritan Precinct to 21st Century 'Edge City'", perhaps in January.

For February, we would be interested in having someone from the Franklin Rail Trail group give a talk at the museum. Debbie will try to contact someone to learn more.

For March, Prof. Rob Lawson of Dean, who recently gave a talk at the Senior Center about the history of Jazz, may be able to give a talk at the museum about this or some other topic. Del will contact him about this.

For April, we would like someone, possibly from the LDS Church, to give a talk at the Museum about how best to approach genealogical research. Bob will investigate.

⊗ **Finance and Budget – (Debbie)**

We discussed the need for some office supplies, namely manila folders and some used manikins. Our current manikins are of various irregular sizes and levels of quality.

Ron Pellegrini's display case extensions are a wonderful addition to the museum. We would like him to create them for each display cabinet. As a result, we need to purchase 30 more picture frames to display within them.

We agreed to renew membership (\$25.) with the New England Museum Association (NEMA) for another year.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

We received a no thank you from Bank of America on our grant application for a badly needed part time curator for the museum. Marlene has now submitted a similar proposal to Rockland Trust Co. of Franklin for their consideration.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Two longtime town residents have agreed to host at the museum in December (9th). Thank you!

Debbie will include a sheet in the letter to hosts that describes how to receive donated items while hosting.

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

Nothing new.

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

Jeff Nutting is currently working on creating a lease agreement between the town and the Franklin School for the Performing Arts for their upcoming use of the Old South Meeting House on Washington St.

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

The Franklin High School Class of 1953 would like to have their reception at the museum. (The fee is \$100.) We have books and films they will enjoy!

A tour of the museum was conducted on Tuesday November 6 for three visitors from Pakistan.

⊗ **Publicity – (Mary Olsson)**

Mary Olsson provided info about Al LePage's "A Victorian Christmas" to two newspapers and submitted it to franklin.tv.

Franklin.tv is also looking for 30 or 60 second spots about Franklin's history.

⊗ **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)

Debbie distributed a complete list of deposits (\$2263.) and expenses (\$604.41) for 2012.

Howard Crawford donated honey from Akin-Bak Farm (West Central St.) to the gift shop at the museum.

Housing Rehab Requests – None.

Demolition Requests -- None

Research Requests

New Business