

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2012

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

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved.

Commission Membership – We discussed changes to the Franklin Historical Commission By-Laws, as drafted by Debbie prior to our last meeting. Aside from some minor corrections, we approved (voting 6 to 0, with one absent) the changes she suggested:

--raise the maximum number of associate members from 7 to 9

--waive the limit of two consecutive years for officers, and allow members to vote on whether the officer can continue to serve

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Communications – (Bob)**

Nothing new.

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

Kacey Donahue's cataloging project is nearing completion. (He is currently helping us by recording in PastPerfect the whereabouts of all items in the display cabinets.)

We discussed briefly the merits of having a PastPerfect data entry person.

A teacher has expressed interest in cataloging the phonograph records in the Museum, and converting them to digital format. That would allow us to preserve the originals, and allow us to play that music during open hours at the Museum.

Marlene reported that she and others met with Stanley Chilson's nephew, Austin Chilson Buchanan, and that he was able to share on film his many memories of his uncle and accompanying him on film outings. Bill Page of Franklin.tv filmed it, and will edit it to make it available on Franklin cable TV. (For Verizon FIOS viewers, this is Channel 28.)

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.

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

The Downtown Holiday Stroll was a success: Mrs. Claus arrived by police escort, and Alan Procknow, Dean history student, gave a talk that night about his project: the industrial and labor development of the town. Colette provided cookies and beverages.

“A Victorian Christmas,” performed by Al LePage at the Franklin Methodist Church was a resounding success. Ticket sales benefitted the Franklin Food Pantry. A big thanks to Mary Olsson for finding him, arranging for him to come to town, writing all the publicity for the event, and making tickets available. Proceeds for the FFP were around \$1400.

After trading emails with the Earls, we confirmed a date for Eamon McCarthy Earls to come to the Museum to speak about his latest book (“Franklin: From Puritan Precinct to 21st Century ‘Edge City’”) and to hold a book signing: Jan 13, 2013, at 1:30PM.

We have the following additional events proposed for the coming months:

- February -- someone (TBD) from the Franklin Rail Trail group give a talk at the museum. Debbie may know someone in it she could ask.
- 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.
- April – someone from the LDS Church’s Genealogy Center, about how best to approach genealogical research. Bob will investigate.

⊗ **Finance and Budget – (Debbie)**

We are submitting a budget of \$3000. for the coming fiscal year (7/1/2013 to 7/1/2014).

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

We submitted a grant application for a part time curator for the museum, but received word from Rockland Trust Co. of Franklin that they would not fund salaries or operating expenses.

As an alternative, at our next meeting, we need to vote on another funding topic: a hologram of either Ben Franklin or Horace Mann, or a project to restore the Stanley Chilson films.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Nothing new.

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

The uniform display has once again been a great success at the Museum. We need to take down the display at or near the end of the year, at some point after Franklin.tv is able to come film it and talk with Colette and Connie about it.

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

Nothing new.

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

Fifth graders from the Horace Mann School visited the Museum. Debbie was on hand to greet them.

⊗ **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 looking for 30 or 60 second spots about Franklin's history. Bob will investigate possible subject matter for this.

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

Nothing new.

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

Bob will investigate the preferred method of reconstructing the Civil War research website that John Leighton his students created.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Debbie reports that the account balance is now \$5700.

Housing Rehab Requests – None.

Demolition Requests -- None

Research Requests

Bob had drafted an answer to an inquiry about Franklin's Masonic Temple as it was in the 1800s. All agreed he should send this info (by email) to the requestor.

Del received a request from Bruce Hunchard, who is seeking a picture of his family's gas station that was located on East Central St (possibly at the curve which we believe was known as Hunchard's Corner) where Dunkin Donuts is now.

New Business -- None