

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2013

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Alan Earls, Connie Lawson, Marlene Oliver, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini (Chair), Bob Percy (Clerk). *Absent:* (none)

Associates Present: Colette Ferguson. *Absent:* Kai Olsson, Mary O'Neill.

Last Meeting's Minutes – Approved as amended.

Commission Membership – Our nomination of Connie Lawson for membership in the Commission was approved by the Town Council. Congratulations Connie! She has since been sworn in by the Town Clerk.

We nominated Pearce and Maureen Murphy to become associate members of the Historical Commission. The Commission voted 6-0 to accept. This will now go to the Town Council for approval.

Tim Twardowski from the Town Master Plan Committee came to get any feedback we had on the document he had sent us: "DRAFT HISTORIC RESOURCE GOALS & OBJECTIVES". A clerk's error omitted him from this month's agenda. We invited him back to our March meeting and provide feedback to him then.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

⊗ **Communications – (Bob)**

Nothing new.

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

We would like to meet with Kacey Donahue to hear any concluding remarks he has about his cataloging project for the Museum's inventory. Alan will contact him.

Mary knows of someone, a FHS sophomore, who needs community service hours.

Alan will follow up with Dean College about finding out about possible available interns.

Alan will also contact Christie Yankee of FHS for possible interns there.

Scanning of photos for vets (Alan) Alan scanned photos and gave them to Jane of Jane's Frames. (Alan will touch base with her.) See **Grants**.

The vinyl-to-digital audio conversion project by teachers at FHS: They are seeking a grant to perform this task.

Del has prepared a draft of how to accession objects. He passed it out. It is 4 pages. Send him feedback by email and copy all when you do.

Mary, Connie, and Bob would like to meet with Del at his convenience to learn more about PastPerfect.

Bill Page of Franklin.tv retrieved the interview of Stanley Chilson's nephew, gave Marlene a copy, which she gave to the Museum. Bob Oliver also edited and produced copies of the Ken DeRossier interview, as well as the group chat (Including Aldo and Alice Vendetti), and gave those to the Museum as well.

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

The FHS Class of 1963 will hold a reunion gathering at the Museum in June. Connie and Colette have begun working on high school pictures.

Feb 17th – Ron Clough's talk about Franklin's Railroad History and the Rail Trail Project was a success. Alan has asked him to return to talk about Franklin's Trolley history.

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

- March 17th – Town's Birthday Party. 120 people were mailed invitations. Debbie will get a cake. We'll have coffee too, and buttons for attendees. Colette will try to find a harpist for the party.
- April 21st -- quilt display. Colette will try to find a speaker for quilts.
- May -- Possibly a celebration of farming, gardens, on the third Sunday. Have the Crawfords in attendance.
- June -- Class of '63 reception. Display the "parachute" wedding dress after the Class '63 reception.
- July 21st -- Coins and stamps speaker (perhaps Jimmy Johnson)
- August 18th - no event

⊗ **Finance and Budget – (Debbie)**

Nothing new.

⊗ **Grants – (Marlene, Alan)**

Could we get a grant to pay Jane's frames? (Marlene will investigate.) There are 6 large frame picture sets.

⊗ **Hosting – (Debbie)**

Nothing new.

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

Protocol for changing display cases, adding more signage, more info for *education*

Manikins, we need to look into purchasing them. Skinny male/female would be best. Connie and Colette will investigate how to obtain some.

We will reimburse Bob Oliver for letterhead. We want him to print letterhead for us.

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

Could Tri-County School build a library ladder system? (Connie will investigate)

A motion: to have Ron Pellegrini build a shelf system on the wall near the Library Room. We pay for the materials. He's donating his time. (The Commission voted 7-0 to have this work done)

Del will pursue a work order for the needed outlet downstairs.

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

⊗ **Publicity – (Mary Olsson)**

Mary will contact cable to have them broadcast info about our upcoming events.

Bob will follow up with Franklin.tv about the 60 second spots about Franklin's history.

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

Nothing new.

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

On our Facebook page, we now have 238 friends.

Civil War site - ongoing. Bob will investigate Google Sites. (We might link to this area. The question is whether Google sites allows you to have a URL.)

Bob updated the Commission website with the latest member and 'term expires' information.

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

The current balance is \$5818.

'Entering Franklin' magnets - hometown magnets. Cost to us: \$65. for 100. We can sell them in the Museum Shop. Voted 7-0. This can come out of the Friends' budget.

Housing Rehab Requests – None.

Demolition Requests – None.

Research Requests – None

New Business

- We discussed methods for streamlining the current format of meeting agenda and minutes.
- Ladybug 40th anniversary celebration for 2014 (Dec. 73 or Jan 74).
- Ancestry.com -- We could get a version of it to install here for research purposes. It's \$695./yr. Mary will investigate whether we can get access through the town (a site license).

- We need new maps - Mary sold the last one. They do go for \$5. Debbie will look into having them reprinted.
- Four Corners cupola – unclaimed for so long, it has disintegrated.
- We discussed adding dividers above the rest of the display cases.
- We discussed refreshing some of the content in specific display cases, for example, to separate Horace Mann, Oliver Dean, and Eddie Grant.
- We discussed placing a glass jar in the Museum somewhere, in the spirit of Ben Franklin ‘a penny saved is a penny earned’.