

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 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. Kai Olsson *Absent:* Mary O’Neill.

Visiting: Alice and Aldo Vendetti, Jeff Nuttings, Ken Norman, Peter Fasciano

Last Meeting’s Minutes – Approved (Vote: 7-0).

Commission Membership

Alice Vendetti expressed an interest in being an associate member of the Historical Commission.

Action Items

Presentations

- Jeff Nutting presented Alice Vendetti with a Town Proclamation in recognition of her outstanding longtime service to the Historical Commission, and to the Town of Franklin. The Commission also honored her with flowers and a gift card signed by all.
- Jeff N. also spoke about the status of the Old South Meeting House on Washington St. The building requires some improvements, including a new floor and a handicap ramp. Despite any repairs, the façade would remain intact. He can help the Commission draft a letter to abutters to have them and us gather at a public hearing to begin discussing possible uses for the building (such as for quiet and light use, perhaps as an office for lawyer, architect, accountant). The end product of such a meeting would be a Request For Proposal (RFP) as to its agreed upon use. The tenant would lease the property from the town for a modest fee, in exchange for improvements made and paid for by the tenant, within historical guidelines. A zoning variance would be required for a new use.
- Ken Norman and Peter Fasciano of Franklin.tv attended. Many topics were discussed: Chilson films – Peter suggested scanning the hardcopy film summaries in the three-ring binder to digital.
Peter will transfer the DVDs themselves into a central storage system.
Franklin.tv would film people talking about a particular Chilson film.
Mary suggested that each 3rd Thursday we would show one Chilson film. Ken suggested doing this at the Museum, rather than at the Franklin.tv studio.

Discussions/Votes

E1. The Commission voted 7-0 to request a student intern from Dean College to assist us.

E2. The Commission also voted 7-0 to request a student intern from Franklin High School to assist us.

E3. Alan had printed an expense report for a proposed ladder for the Library Room of the Museum. We decided to wait and submit it as part of the Town's Annual Capital Plan. (Submissions are submitted to a capital plan committee for review.)

E4. At our previous meeting, we voted not to seek membership with www.ancestry.com.

E5. Debbie spoke with Garden Clubs members, some of whom will speak at the Museum on 5/19 about the pleasure of gardening. This will be in addition to the speaker(s) who will discuss farming in Franklin.

The Commission voted 7-0 to accept the amended section of the Town Master Plan that pertains to the town historical assets ("HISTORIC RESOURCE GOALS & OBJECTIVES"). This will now go to Tim Twardowski.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – (details from subcommittees, if provided)

⊗ Communications – (Bob)

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

Chilson films - Del reminded us that his voiceover recordings, available only on the VHS versions, are available as a resource for anyone, such as Marlene and/or Franklin.tv, who would add more audio content to the existing DVDs. He also suggested that Chilson's nephew (Buck Buchanan) might be able to help us with the audio. (See also **Presentations**.)

Bob will provide feedback to Del on his draft of a Museum Accession Procedure.

⊗ Events – (Debbie, Colette, Connie)

May – Farming and Gardening in Franklin

June – 1st: gathering of FHS "53; 8th": gathering of FHS "63

July – perhaps an appraiser. Debbie is investigating.

Aug – Perhaps someone to speak on Ellis Island

Oct – Wool Spinning

Nov – Vets Display

Dec – 6th: Holiday Stroll, Mrs. Clause; 12th: Dickens Christmas

Downtown Partnership events also include:

Downtown Beautification Day will be Saturday, May 18th, at 9 a.m.

The Strawberry Stroll will be Thursday, June 13th, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Harvest Festival will be Sunday, October 6th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

⊗ Finance and Budget – (Debbie)

⊗ Grants – (Marlene, Alan)

⊗ Hosting – (Debbie)

⊗ Museum Display – (Colette, Connie, Debbie)

⊗ **Museum Operations – (Del, Alan)**

- A key holder has been installed.
- A Museum visitor requested historical data on property at 38 Oak Street. No property survey records have been made. Del suggested they contact Norfolk County Register of Deeds.
- Someone arrived to pick up loaned wedding dresses. We should label them clearly when boxing them.
- Funeral at the Methodist Church created parking issues. How to address this.

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

⊗ **Publicity – (Mary Olsson)**

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

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

Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)

Housing Rehab Requests – None.

Demolition Requests – None.

Research Requests – None

G. Old Business

- *Oral Histories (Marlene)* – Marlene will work with Del
- All other topics – nothing new

H. New Business – Nothing new

I. Finances

- Hist Comm balance - \$700.
- Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum balance - \$5700.

Voted to Adjourn, 7-0.