

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2014

Commissioners Present: Del Arnold, Colette Ferguson, Marlene Oliver, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini, Bob Percy. Absent: Connie Lawson

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 16, 2014

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

C. APPOINTMENTS – None.

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. FHS Audio Conversion Project – attending was FHS student Michael Labine, who is converting the museum's old platter records to audio files (.wav format), and digitally "cleaning" them as well. This effort was originally spearheaded by Horace Mann Middle School teacher Mark Brady. The turntables being used for this project were funded by a Teacher's Association grant secured by a Mr. Peacock.

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

E1. Reorganization. The following Historical Commission offices were filled, after each nominee was unanimously (6-0) approved, and each accepted the position: Chair – Debbie Pellegrini, Vice Chair – Mary Olsson, Treasurer – Colette Ferguson, and Clerk – Bob Percy.

E2. Visitor's Guide – Bob, Mary, and Connie have been editing this document. Mary and Bob will continue work on this.

E3. Charter School Tree Project – Bob sent a letter to the Head of School, inquiring whether students might take on the task of determining the age of the oak tree at the school.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

F1. Web Subcommittee (Minessa, Bob, Mary) – Minessa and Bob met with Steve Sherlock, who is transferring the domain names to us.

F2. Town Birthday, Mar 2nd (Debbie) – Debbie will bring buttons and proclamations. Marlene, Colette, and Debbie will bring food and drinks.

F3. Appraisal Day Mar. 9th (Paula and Debbie) – all can attend to help.

F4. Displays: Indian, Dresses and Uniforms – Valentines' Display: great job to Connie, Colette, and Mary. Plans are to take this down before the town birthday celebration. Dresses: Connie has been ironing and restoring very brittle dresses.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Volunteer Training – Mary held training for seven volunteers. She asked what people wanted to help do. One museum need – to organize the written resources so that visitors can more easily find things. (Some museums have a museum guide posted online.) Mary felt we should hold training sessions regularly to help support volunteers.

2. Bell move from the old museum to our belfry – waiting for better weather

3. 150 Emmons St. revamp meeting – to be held Mar. 4th

Lease Old Museum – On hold

Photo Group to Jane's Frames – In progress.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Caitlyn Coyne – would like to work on cataloging (indexing and PastPerfect) and become an associate member. She will send a letter to Debbie to that effect.

I. FINANCES – Nothing new.

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

The State has authorized local historical commissions to have alternate members who can vote in the absence of members. Debbie will look at our bylaws to see if we need to modify them.

The MA Teacher's Association and Dean College are very interested in funding a statue of Horace Mann for the 150 Emmon's St. site. Mary suggested contacting Antioch College to let them know of this effort.

Ron Pellegri will prepare a basic toolbox for use in the museum basement.

The internet access issue at the Museum has been fixed.

K. FFHM – Current account balance is \$6,291.

L. OTHER

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests:

656 King St. No documentation about the structure has been submitted yet. We voted to continue consideration of this request, pending add'l information.

1342 West Central St. – Phil Cordeiro submitted plans to commemorate the historic structure at this site, by preserving two sides of the structure's foundation and to erect a sign on the site, the content of which we can develop with Mr. Cordeiro as the project proceeds. Based on this proposal, the Commission voted 6-0 to allow the demolition to proceed.

Research Requests – None

M. Vote to adjourn, 6-0