

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2014

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

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from February 25, 2014

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

C. APPOINTMENTS – As Town Clerk, Debbie P. swore in Caitlyn Coyne as an Associate Member of the Historical Commission. Congratulations!

D. PRESENTATIONS – Demolition Request for 656 King St.

Attending were Don Neilson of Guerriere and Halnon, Inc. and Rob Beach of Wegman Companies, Inc., representing the owner. After examining the pictures of the structure, the Commission voted 5-0 (with two absent) to allow the proposed demolition to proceed.

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

E1. Methodist Church Blood Mobile – They would like to have the vehicle park in our parking lot on a Saturday in June. It seems fine, but we need to determine which day this would be.

E2. Visitor's Guide – Mary has made progress on this. Bob will coordinate with her.

E3. Movie Night – Nothing new. Bob will need to coordinate publicity with Mary. We may offer some healthy (colonial?) type of snack, such as popcorn.

E4. Volunteer Meeting/Outcome/Report – Mary is absent, will provide info at a future meeting.

E5. Cultural Council Reception (Apr. 6th) – The Franklin CC will run the event and provide snacks, but we will set up chairs, put out sign, open for them and welcome them.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

F1. Web Subcommittee (Minessa, Bob, Mary)

- Minessa successfully launched the new Museum website! Bob contributed some content pieces.
- Minessa is accepting additional content from other members. Del mentioned his museum tour video. Debbie provided a hardcopy version of the 2014 Hist Comm. Events Calendar.
- Bob will examine the Commission website to be sure it points to both the new Museum website and the Museum Facebook page.

F2. Connie and Colette have been caring for some very delicate clothing items. It would be important to have us attend a conservation course specific to textiles. Debbie suggested obtaining more info about possible courses from NEMA.

F3. Identification on Displays – We agreed that we need, in general, more information on more displays.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. *Charter School Tree Project* – Bob received an email from the BFCCPS thanking us for the project proposal, and said the faculty and a 5th grade class were going to look at it.

2. *Bell move from the old museum to our belfry* – Nothing new to report. Debbie will ask Jeff N.

3. *150 Emmons St – Garden Project* ON HOLD. Discussion of the latest proposals for this site will take place at the Town Council meeting in the first week of April.

4. Lease Old Museum/vote to start RFP process per Jeff – ON HOLD; nothing new.

5. Wall /Construction and Display Panels – ON HOLD; nothing new.

6. Historic Inventory (Low priority) – Caitlyn is interested in this project.

7. Strategic Plan (Rating High) ON HOLD; nothing new.

8. Civil War History on Web – ON HOLD; nothing new.

9. Walking Tour – ON HOLD; nothing new.

10. Photo Group to Jane's Frames – In progress

H. NEW BUSINESS

- Dean College visits – Del and Bob hosted on a Wednesday at the Museum for two classes of Prof. Rob Lawson’s history students. Lots of good questions and enthusiasm. Rob is looking forward to more visits and use of the Museum in the future, to support the new 4-year scope of historical study at the College. He mentioned that Dean’s 150th anniversary is next year.
- There will be an upcoming meeting of the Cultural Activities District, part of a State level program that can help fund maps that will bring people to the town. Del and Debbie plan to attend.

I. FINANCES – Nothing new.

J. MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

- Marlene has ordered a guide to help the Commission: A Guide to the Preventive Conservation of Photographs. This will be a valuable reference. There was interest also in locating a similar guide for textiles: Marlene will investigate.
- Stella Jeon has expressed interest in interviewing seniors (on site at the museum?) before a live gathering, in order to boost foot traffic. We need to prepare the way for this to happen.

K. FFHM – Nothing new.

L. OTHER

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests – (see **Presentations**)

Research Requests – None

M. Vote to adjourn, 6-0