

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2014

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

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, as amended, from April 15, 2014.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS – None.

C. APPOINTMENTS – None.

D. PRESENTATIONS:

Tom Crawford - Historian and Civil War re-enactor. Wanted to let us know about what he does and what re-enactments he can provide, including gathering a large encampment suitable for the Town Common. Mary suggested a smaller encampment in front of the Museum to coincide with the Strawberry Stroll. Mr. Crawford is also in contact with a Ben Franklin impersonator, a Frederick Douglas impersonator, impersonators of men of color who served in white regiments in the Civil War, and local speakers on Civil war related topics from Franklin, Attleboro, and Rutland.

Marlene Oliver – Marlene brought copies of books she purchased: *A Guide to the Preventive Conservation of Photograph Collections*, and *Preserving Textiles*. She also made and distributed copies of the key sections for Commission members.

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

E1. Visitor's Guide – This is in progress. This book is actually merely a collection of short pieces to serve as display placards.

E2. Volunteer Resource Manual – Mary has filled this full of lots of useful information, for volunteers and Commissioners alike. Mary plans to add an index. Also, Mary is in contact with a woman who has done research at the Museum, and who would like to share her observations about the Museum's great research materials.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

F1. Web Subcommittee (Minessa, Bob, Mary) – Minessa removed the calendar, in order to add event info. To be posted is a PDF volunteer form. She plans to compress Del's tour video for better posting.

F2. Display Stamp Day-September – Nothing new to report.

F3. Grant Writing – Nothing new.

F4. Cultural District Committee – meeting tonight at Library. Del will attend.

F5. Movie Night – "1776" on June 29th -- Bob will send Minessa a movie trailer for her to post.

F6. Computer Inventory – Nothing new.

F7. Eye glass Display – This effort has proved challenging given the lack of documentation of the pieces.

F8. Bell to be Brought to New Museum – This is likely a go. DPW will do this and check for water leaks and damage around the ceiling door.

F9. Wedding Gowns – Mary has posted an invitation for gowns. Before Stella Jeon passed away, she donated her wedding dress to the Museum, as well as items from her father's store ("Jimmy's") which was located just northeast of the railroad bridge (where H&R Block is now).

F10. Victorian Secrets Display – specific dates are TBD.

A Motion – that the Horace Mann display be made a permanent display. Approved 4-0. There is a Peter Golden of Natick who is very knowledgeable about history and would like to come to the Museum to give a talk on Horace Mann.

G. OLD BUSINESS – nothing new to report on these items.

G1. Charter School Tree Project – in Progress.

G2. Lease Old Museum – Nothing new.

G3. Wall construction and display panels – Nothing new.

G4. Strategic plan – on hold.

G5. Civil War History – (see Presentations)

G6. Walking tour – Nothing new.

G7. Record conversion (Mark Brady/Michael Labine) – They may be able to give us something soon.

H. NEW BUSINESS – Downtown Partnership. Ongoing need for Historical Commission representation.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – What do we need?

J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Mary mentioned that in our archives are the meeting minutes of the now defunct Horace Mann Society. We should make a project of preserving these archives.

K. Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM) – Nothing new.

L. OTHER

Housing Rehab Requests – None

Demolition Requests – None

Research Requests – None

M. ADJOURN - Vote to adjourn, 4-0