

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2014

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

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from May 20, 2014.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS – None.

C. APPOINTMENTS – None.

D. PRESENTATIONS:

Sound Recording Conversion Project – Attending were Mark Brady of the Horace Mann Middle School, Kip Brady (no relation) of the Franklin Education Foundation (FEF) (a small group that provides grants to public schools), and Mike LaBine, a recent graduate of FHS and the person performing the conversion.

The grant provided by the FEF paid for the turntables that Mike L. has used for the conversion. These will serve as a lasting resource for use by students in the FHS audio engineering lab. The converted mp3 versions of the records will need to be managed by adding metadata to each so they can be managed efficiently in a “jukebox” and ready for future use, by category, as the need arises: on the web, or in the museum.

Mary O. suggested the need to store the original acetate records in acid-free sleeves. Mark B. recommended storing them in sleeves, and on end. For the mp3s, he recommended storing them on an external hard drive (size: 1 terabyte would suffice). To play them, an Apple mp3 player (\$200.) would be appropriate. (We may want to seek a donation from Apple for this.)

Mary suggested having a public event with the FEF. Someone suggested contacting Chronicle.

MuseumTrek – Attending was Tim Cook of Franklin. He has formed an organization (info at www.museumtrek.com) that creates scavenger hunts for museums for young and old participants. He is currently a scout den leader in Pack 17 in town. The entry price for purchasing this would be \$1200. Participants would download the app from his website beforehand, then use it at the museum in a ‘trek’ (typically 12 to 20 questions). Hunts can be changed to suit the audience or theme. He is working on a kickstarter campaign that includes creating a 70 to 90 second video of kids experiencing a museum. He would then want to make a 90 second to 5 minute video to post to our web site. He is aiming to tape the video at the museum in late July (some time between 7/22 and 7/31).

He would give us a login to a content management system to which we could upload photos and other content to create the treks.

Bob Oliver – Chilson films. Background: Del has converted the original 16 mm films to VHS format. Bob would like to convert the VHS versions to digital format. All VHS tapes are in the vault at the town clerk’s office. Bob recommends being able to play Chilson films on a flatscreen monitor set in an alcove in the museum. He would like to catalog the films as a series of shorter segments. There would be roughly 1000 such segments that we could store by category (searchable names and scene titles), and play on demand. The labor involved: 10 hrs/wk for one year. This would include creating a segment listing in Excel. We may want to use a tool such as Xilisoft iPad Magic Platinum to help manage this (something Mark Brady had suggested for the audio files.)

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

Strawberry Festival – Approx. 60 people came to the museum. Steve Sherlock was here and took pictures. Del who was hosting with Shirley said people came in ready to identify the names of WWII veterans whose pictures we have posted. We agreed to place writable tape below each one to be ready for this to happen again. Bob Fahey, the veteran’s agent, has a list of the men from Franklin who served in WWII.

Movie Night - “1776” slated for Sun. 6/29 at 5PM. Will serve water and microwave popcorn.

Cataloging – we discussed the importance of keeping donated collections together until they can be cataloged (in PastPerfect) as a unit and separately.

Bob agreed to put together a CD of 1954 music for the upcoming FHS ’54 reunion at the museum.

Victorian Secrets - with everything else going on, no plans for this display.

Veteran’s Display – is next.

Debbie distributed a form for one time events, in order to keep records straight. We should add this to our collected documents.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

F1. Web Subcommittee (Minessa, Bob, Mary) – Nothing new.

F2. Grant Writing – Nothing new.

F3. Cultural District Committee – Del says we’re staying close to it.

F4. Computer Inventory – Mary and Bob will meet to enter some of Stella Jeon’s donations, in familiarize ourselves with PastPerfect.

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

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

F5. Bell to be Brought to New Museum – This won’t happen before the upcoming movie. Logistical obstacles need to be discussed.

F6. Volunteer Resource Manual (Mary) – is complete.

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

G1. Charter School Tree Project – ongoing.

G2. Lease Old Museum – ongoing.

G3. Wall construction and display panels – On Hold.

G4. Record conversion project (Mark Brady/Michael Labine) – ongoing.

G5. Walking tour – on hold.

H. NEW BUSINESS – None.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – The account has ~ 8K.

J. MEMBERS’ COMMENTS – None.

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, 6-0