

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts
Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2014

Commissioners Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegri, Bob Percy.
Absent: Minessa Konecky.

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from September 16, 2014. Approved as amended.
- B. CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None.
- C. APPOINTMENTS** – Two people have contacted Debbie to apply for the vacant seat on the Historical Commission.
- D. PRESENTATIONS:** Bob Oliver brought a formal proposal for work he would like to perform on the Chilson film collection. He would first supervise the conversion of the films from Sony digital to DVD, as performed by Peter from Franklin TV. (There are 28 films in all, at 500 GB in size.) He would then digitally cut the films into segments. Each segment would have metadata: a date, a still photo (to indicate its contents), and a title. We could set this up in the museum's main display area on a standalone system for viewing, with an interactive and user-friendly interface. We could rearrange the segments to follow the original Chilson order or another order.

We would need to purchase a storage drive. Bob O. and Bob Percy will discuss the options.

The Commission voted 5-0 to accept Bob O's proposal to work on this.

E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES

Bob Oliver/Film project – (see Presentations).

Old Museum Update – discussions are ongoing. There was a gathering at the old museum of building contractors, builders, the town building inspection department, and the Citizens Action Committee. The consensus was that less work than was previously thought would be required to make the building usable. The Housing Authority is not expressing interest in the building. The Franklin Art Association has expressed interest in using it. The building's deed says that it must be used for historical purposes. Some parties are investigating National Register of Historic Places status for the building.

Display of WWII Veterans Framed Pictures – Mary proposed displaying them in what's now the Victorian Room and intends to draw up a plan.

Speakers – Has been in contact with Thatcher Freund who works with people who write their memories, and who lectures about doing that. On a larger scale, we discussed the merits of having a monthly speaker series at the Museum.

Movie Night in April – Bob suggested showing the Academy Award winning film "The Miracle Worker" in April, to coincide with Annie Sullivan's birthday. This motion was approved 5-0.

Other items for the calendar: Horace Mann's birthday (1st week of May), the Town's birthday (3/2), and an Antiques Appraisal Day (3/16), and a Postcard Display (for 3rd quarter 2015). Mary knows someone who has a Master's Degree in historical postcards.

F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

F1. Web Subcommittee (Minessa, Bob, Mary) – The Museum's Facebook page now has 400+ 'like's.

F2. Veteran's Display – Ongoing.

F3. Volunteers – A new volunteer is hosting this month – thank you!

F4. Reference Room (Debbie) – Ongoing.

F5. Record Albums – Mark Brady returned all borrowed records to the Museum. A volunteer has begun to catalog them in PastPerfect.

F6. Computers/IT, Archeological Preservation, Eyeglasses Display (Minessa). – Ongoing.

G. OLD BUSINESS

- G1. Wall construction near display/hats case – Plans are pending how we intend to display the framed veteran’s pictures. One option is a display rack from the Gaylord supply catalog.
- G2. Computer Inventory (Bob, Mary) – Mary is working with a volunteer: another is in the works.
- G3. MuseumTrek (Mary, Bob) – Ongoing, nothing new.
- G4. Old Museum (Debbie) – Ongoing. (See Old Museum Update under Discussions/Votes.)

H. NEW BUSINESS – Nothing new.

I. FINANCES (FFHM) – A motion to pay Jane’s Frames for their work on the veterans frames. Passed 5-0.

J. MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS – 23 Cottage St. Passed 5-0. Bob will send letter to Building Inspector Brown and Debbie for the Clerk’s records.

L. ADJOURN - Voted to adjourn, 5-0.