

# Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

## Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2015

**Commissioners Present:** Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Debbie Pellegri, Bob Percy.

**Absent:** Colette Ferguson.

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from August 11th, approved as amended (5-0).

**B. CITIZEN COMMENTS** - None.

**C. APPOINTMENTS** — We still have a vacancy and discussed who an ideal candidate would be — a retired teacher or librarian. Mary will place an ad in the major local outputs: Milford News, Metrowest Daily News, the Franklin Gazette, and Steve Sherlock's websites.

**D. PRESENTATIONS** — None.

**E. DISCUSSIONS/VOTES**

1. Historic plaque program. Debbie spoke with the assessor's office. They do not have solid records that predate the 1890s.
2. Participation in October Event/Downtown Partnership ("the October 15th Stroll", 4 to 8PM) - We thought it would be nice to have the antique cars again. Debbie said she would contact Lisa Piana about having them attend this year. Debbie will also bring cookies and cider for us to provide that day.

**F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. PastPerfect Project (Bob & John C.) - Bob has been in touch with John. Currently on hold.
2. Record Project (Adding 78 RPM records to PastPerfect) (Mary and Phyllis) -- Mary has been entering information about audio recordings into PastPerfect.
3. Digitized documents - Bob has submitted the 1905 Franklin Business Directory to our [archive.org](http://archive.org) contact at the Boston Public Library. He said he would like us to submit multiple documents the next time. Some suggestions for future submissions - annual reports. Debbie mentioned that some of these are already digitized on the town website.
4. Museum Siding - This will start in September.
5. Textile Preservation - URI has textile preservation courses. One of us (perhaps Connie) may be able to take a preservation course. We may investigate whether our NEMA membership can give us a tuition discount.
6. Veterans Picture Display - Colette not here to elaborate.
7. Ficco's "Special Effects" - Debbie was able to obtain some items from Ficco's Bowling Alley, including pins and balls. Bob and Connie also spoke with them and got some small signs and other ephemera with the company name on them. Also discussed the approval from Ficco's of obtaining the large red sign out in front. We should accession all of these items (that is, enter them in PastPerfect).
8. Veteran's Uniform Display - Debbie suggested having uniformed manikins in the center area. We also discussed highlighting WWII this year because it's the 70th anniversary of the end of "The War". We discussed having a slide presentation of Franklin WWII vets. Mary noted that Victor Pisini has a great memory and may be able to share some information with us. We discussed recognizing Howard Crawford in some way. We targeted 11/15 as our set up date. We agreed to vote on the content of the display at our October meeting.

9. Mary plans to attend NEMA's Massachusetts Museum Day on Oct. 7th at the State House. The Commission agreed to provide \$100. to the event, and thereby become a published sponsor.

#### **G. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Album Project at FHS - Though there has been no progress on this in the last year, the Commission voted to have FHS continue work on this project.
2. Museum Trek - no news about this.
3. Clothing Room - Connie, Colette, and Bob organized the clothing in both rooms upstairs as part of taking down the wedding dress display. This is an ongoing effort, in need of additional acid free boxes and shelf space.
4. Reference Room - ongoing (filing)
5. Film Project (Bob Oliver) - Bob P. plans to touch base with Bob O. to see where this effort stands.
6. Susan Elliot/transcription of diaries - no news.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. We need a new scanner/copier for the Library Room. We also need to network all our computers together. Bob will touch base with Town IT person Dan Chase to discuss these improvements.

**I. FINANCES (FFHM)** – The current balance is roughly the same as last month (\$7,100).

#### **J. MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS** – None.

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