

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2016, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Jeremy Ball, Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy, Richard Remillard

Absent: None.

Associates Present: Kai Olsson

Visiting: Alison Anderson, Nicole Nietzel, Debbie Pellegrini, Paul Pisani, Robin Haddocks

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - From the meeting on July 12, 2016. Approved as amended.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. PRESENTATIONS - None.

E. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM) -

1. Appraisal Night, Fri., 9/16 6-8:30PM. Nancy Wyman of Coyle Antiques. \$5./item. No food or drink.
2. Fiddling Thompson's event - roughly 50 people attended. Audience and performers enjoyed it. Donations were \$39. Overall this second annual Cultural Festival provided some amazing music.

F. DISCUSSION/VOTE -

1. Motion to send a letter of approval to Franklin TV for erecting a radio tower on Forge Hill. Passed 6-0.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Project - Nicole has been entering records of photos and maps. She's including images (in tiff format) with the records, and labeling the original photos with their Object IDs. Alison completed a draft of a PastPerfect user's guide. Bob will review it. Alison is getting pictures and descriptions together. In response to a question about making the contents of our PastPerfect database available as a public research tool, Alison recommended that we first need to make it serve that purpose for Commissioners. Later, available to the public, perhaps in a 3 to 5 year timeframe.
2. Digitized Documents (Bob) - Nothing new. Bob will investigate sending off the Franklin Business Directories.
3. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - We have spent about \$700. so far. We discussed posting internship projects and associating them with specific for which we would apply. Example - to the Franklin Cultural Council (too late this year but good idea for next year).
4. Discussed what the Commission pays for vs. what the FFHM pays for. We'll need to meet again in the future to nail down all the specifics, to create a clear written policy of purchasing guidelines upon which we can rely.
5. A possible separate budget category for accessions? We'll include mention of this in the purchasing guidelines.
6. Nicole and Alison are drafting a long list of tasks and projects that they'll provide to us.
7. Task list, including time estimates, will be geared towards projects for future interns and volunteers.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Recap: Gathering with surrounding Historical Commissions (Sun. 8/7th) — a great success. We agreed to meet quarterly, and perhaps include Milford, Hopedale, and Mendon.

Social media impact: Instagram followers greatly increased. 700 people now belong to the Museum's Facebook page. The informal exchange of items was productive and fun. Perhaps we can bring in speakers for short talks or workshops.

2. NEMA Annual Excellence Awards - Mary is working on an entry. Due in the coming weeks
3. Follow up with builders - Red House memorial at West Central St. Mary will investigate
4. Readiness for a walkthrough of Thompson's Press building. Mary and Remy will investigate.
5. DPW work order items - air conditioner is fixed, dehumidifier was repaired. Left to do - repair holes in wall, insect removal.

Discussed whether we could have shelves installed downstairs. This wouldn't need to come from anyone's budget.

We asked the library for a cast-off book cart (rather than a shopping cart).

6. Still planning a meetup between curators and town officials to show them our progress.
7. Museum Calendar for 2017 - draft is complete, Phyllis is working on pricing.
8. Annual Report summary - Mary has started work on it.
9. Brick School Room Enhancements - Colette wants to make use of items in display cases. We'll have to note their new location in PastPerfect. Would like to use the light colored Village Photo display cases.
10. Native American Corner - Colette is creating materials for signage - 36 pt. type on foam board (which is cost-effective and clearly distinguishes signage from framed artifacts). To adhere signage, we'll use "command strips".
11. Museum Shop - Now contains new books. We need a process for handling purchases.
12. Almont Studios event - overlaps with our own open hours (Connie and Colette).
13. HABS Reports for buildings on the chopping block - Nicole plans to send out info about this.
14. Possible trip to Skinner's in Marlboro, for them to examine some items to be deaccessioned.
15. Discussed updating the Demolition Delay Bylaw to move with the times (50+ years).

I. NEW BUSINESS - None.

J. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - None.

K. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - 899 Upper Union St. Some Commissioners would like to examine the site. Discussion and vote tabled until the September meeting.

L. ADJOURN - Voted 7-0 to adjourn.