

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts

Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2016, 6:30 PM

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

Absent: None.

Visiting: Nicole Nietzel

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - From the meeting on Aug. 9, 2016. Approved as amended.
- B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS** - None.
- C. APPOINTMENTS** - (see NEW BUSINESS).
- D. PRESENTATIONS** - None.
- E. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM)** - not present
- F. DEMOLITION REQUESTS** - 899 Upper Union St. After some members inspected the site, we voted 7-0 to allow the demolition to proceed. (This, as with any such approval, means that the demolition is not subject to public review.)
- G. DISCUSSION/VOTE** - none
- H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - 1. PastPerfect Project - Nicole has done more work in PastPerfect, including 200+ photographs. She feels that when it's ready (Alison's estimate was 3 to 5 years out), PastPerfect content could be exported for public use, and would increase (not decrease, as some might think) foot traffic to the museum.
 - 2. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - We have spent about \$3300. so far: \$2000. for curators and \$1300. for supplies.
 - 3. Curation: Nicole was able to work an additional two weeks, during which she is adding more maps and photographs to PastPerfect. She and Alison are still working on a list of future projects. Though Alison has moved, she continues to work on the textiles upstairs. Nicole has been serving as a volunteer supervisor for Robin H. and Jennifer.
 - 4. Plans for curator meeting with town council - tentatively planned for Oct. 5th.
 - 5. PastPerfect Getting Started Guide - Bob will rework based on hands on testing.
- I. EVENTS**

In general — Nicole encourages everyone to take pictures of events and then email them to her.

 - 1. Plans for Appraisal Night - Mary has put out publicity on this. Remy will be attending.
 - 2. Genealogy Club Mtg., Sept 29th - Mary will be hosting.
 - 3. Robert Megerdichian metal sculptures - set up has moved from 10/1 to 10/2 (presentation at 1:30). Will use the hexagonal cabinet.
 - 4. October Stroll planning - The Downtown Partnership arranges this. To include antique cars. Colette will open at 4PM. A suggestion was made, in general if not for this year, to accompany the antique cars with photos of old Franklin cars.
 - 5. Upcoming meeting with surrounding historical commissions/societies — planned for Sun. 11/20th, 4 - 6PM. Cake and cookies, will include some additional towns.
- J. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 1. Almont Green open house - great turnout. Almost had made a Facebook event, which Nicole feels bolstered attendance. Rep. Roy suggested we put together a grant proposal for a photograph display

panel, and that this would come from the State's cultural projects budget. Jeremy and Nicole expressed interest in doing this. The strength of this proposal, says Nicole, is that the proposed photograph display panel would provide "maximum information with minimum handling."

2. Charles River Meadowlands project - next steps? Be sure that the inclusion of the Oliver Pond house is included.
3. NEMA Annual Excellence Awards - Entry has been submitted. Presentation will be at this year's NEMA conference.
4. Red house memorial on West Central St. - Members will investigate the site for signs of compliance.
5. Walkthrough of Thompson Press building - Members will investigate when this will take place. Bob will investigate historical salvage companies.
6. Status of DPW work orders - there is a website for this.
7. Museum Calendar for 2017 - looked at 2 mockups: one glossy, one flat. Planned run is 200 calendars.
8. Annual Report summary - Mary wrote and submitted this.
9. Brick School Room Enhancements - Colette will discuss this with Cindy Douglas and will begin the rehab after the veterans display work is complete.
10. Native American Corner - in progress.
11. Museum Shop - in progress.
12. Possible trip to Skinner's in Marlboro - this is non-biz: we'll work this out off-line.
13. Discussed updating the Demolition Delay Bylaw to move with the times (50+ years) - Jeremy plans to investigate this. The current wording is available at the town website, under "Town of Franklin Ordinances".

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Historical programming opportunities for new FM radio station - Peter Faschiano would provide a slot for the museum. He can use the audio from Stella Jeon's interviews. Bob P. can record any speeches or other written text.
2. Commissioner's attendance at FFHM events - no guidelines, people do what they can.
3. Eagle Project - Sal Balkus. Would like to redo our website, make it more user-friendly, a worthwhile aim.
4. Scanning Day, Plainville Public Library, Monday, Oct. 24th. Some of us should attend. Bob will find out what time this is to be held.
5. Events - Veteran's display - breakfast at the museum - 8 to 10AM on Mon. Nov. 12th. Plans are to invite State Rep Jeff Roy, and Senators Ross and Spilka.
6. Nominated for associate membership on the Historical Commission: Lillian Morrissey, who works on newspaper articles for the Commission's media folder.

L. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS -

1. Historic District Markers - suggestion by Jeremy.
2. The Franklin Historical Commission master plan. Shall we update it?
3. Community Preservation Act - how to proceed? Perhaps hold a meeting among interested folks.

M. ADJOURN - Voted 7-0 to adjourn.