

Town of Franklin, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2017, 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Colette Ferguson, Connie Lawson, Phyllis Malcolm, Mary Olsson, Bob Percy

Absent: Jeremy Ball, Richard Remillard

Visiting: Kai Olsson, Debbie Pellegrini

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - From the meeting on December 13, 2016. Approved (5-0).

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None.

C. APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. PRESENTATIONS - None.

E. DEMOLITION REQUESTS - None.

F. FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM (FFHM) - Debbie P.

1. Have ~\$8900. from donations and gift shop proceeds.
2. FFHM will have Horace Mann mugs (with a picture of the statue) available for the 5/7 statue dedication. Also discussed were paperweights, pens, and postcards.

G. DISCUSSION/VOTE - None.

1. Election of Officers. Nominated and approved (5-0) for the coming year were:
 - Chair - Mary O.
 - Treasurer - Phyllis M.
 - Clerk - Bob P.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PastPerfect Getting Started Guide (Bob) - Still making progress. Debbie asked if we could make an inventory list/report available on the upstairs computers for public use.
2. Treasurer's Report (Phyllis) - Roughly the same amount remaining (\$700.).

I. EVENTS

1. Susan Elliot is working on a display for Black History Month.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Will hold a meeting (Thurs.) to set the exhibit/presentation/speaker schedule for 2017. This will also include what to display at the Town Offices.
2. History of the Oliver Pond House. We plan to add Jim Johnston to our speaker list for 2017.
3. National Register signs for the downtown - a good idea, in progress.
4. Application for Franklin Cultural Council grant is pending. This would allow us to purchase an iC4K display panel created by Almont Green. We'll know the outcome in January. We've already accrued \$125. from the open house at Almont Green Studios in 2016 towards this acquisition.
5. Museum Website - eagle scout project (Sal B.) - The plan is for him to create a new website from scratch, to supervise other scouts in this effort, and to preserve the current contents of the site. They also plan to scan WWII veterans pictures taken by Stanley Chilson, and to create a corresponding user input tool to add peoples' comments about them.
6. Shelving for upstairs room (Remy) - In progress.
7. Amending the town's demolition delay bylaw - Nothing new. Mary will ask Gus Brown about a possible expiration (1 year) of the Commission's assent to demolitions.
8. Reprinting William M. Thayer's books - Nothing new.

9. Obtaining a copy of 1970s Harvard student (Steven M. Diamond) thesis on the Town of Franklin. Nothing new.
10. Native American Corner - much progress, some final touches ahead.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Possible need for Museum steeple painting - Mary will inquire.
2. Stone repair in Union St. Cemetery - Wayne Stobbert has been doing this. Others are active in this effort too.
3. Artifacts for display in the town offices - TBD.
4. Possible new items to sell in the Museum Shop.
5. Kai asked if there were a way to determine how many visitors we get on our Facebook page and Museum website.

L. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - None

1. Mary handed out info sheets about the upcoming Cultural District Planning mtg, and the 3rd Annual Franklin Cultural Festival.
2. The Town Clerk is inviting us to submit our ethics training certificates (due by April 1st).

M. ADJOURN - Voted 5-0 to adjourn.