



Town of Franklin Massachusetts  
**Historical Commission**

**Meeting Minutes October 2023**

Commission Members Present: Scott Mason, Alan Earls, Jan Prentice, Paul Pisani, Phyllis Malcolm,  
Associate Members: Will Lee, Kai Olsson  
Archivist Rowan Lowell

Minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting were accepted as written

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: Town Building inspector Lloyd ‘Gus’ Brown attended via audio link to discuss the town’s plans for Schmitd Farm. The town has acquired the land to be used as open space. The home on the property is to be demolished. Pictures, previously sent, were distributed for the commission to review. The house is in rough shape and cannot be salvaged. A barn on the property is in much better condition and at this time the plan is to preserve/restore the barn for future use.

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: None

FFHM Report: No members present, but Paula Vozella sent word that the Friends made \$356 in sales during the recent Harvest Festival event. It was reported, by both Phyllis and confirmed by Rowan, that the Friends felt not enough people came to hear the live entertainment provided at the museum during the Harvest Festival. The Friends were asked to provide funding for the live entertainment from funds raised to support the museum events.

It is noted that over 75 visitors signed the guest book and walked through the museum that day.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- TREASURER: \$3,780 remaining in our budget
- ARCHIVIST : Rowan reported that the cataloging in the basement is still ongoing. She has looked at shelving available at the DPW that is available. Although it is new, it would have to be cut size to fit in the basement. It is leftover shelving from what the DPW had ordered but was not strong enough to support the weight of the records they need to store. Our storage wouldn’t be as heavy. It would be a cost saver for the town if the museum repurposed the DPW shelving. Mary asked if the cabinets in place now would be removed. Rowan said there is no plans to remove them at this time. The wood cabinets are not ideal for long term storage.

It was asked if there is a moisture detector in the basement, Rowan stated there is a dew point indicator on the dehumidifier in use downstairs. It was asked if we should get something that would detect a water leak or burst pipe.

There is an exhibit committee later this month. There was discussion around the need for an exhibit committee. The commission has always been able to plan and execute the museum exhibits. Mary believes the Friends feel the need for a committee, that they can participate in stemming from the fact that the commission has not produced a bridal exhibit since before covid. Members of the Friends feel the bridal gown exhibit is the most important exhibit the museum does and should be done every year. Mary noted that the two primary members who worked to produce the all past bridal gown exhibits are no longer on the commission and Mary was not in a position to take on the event herself due to personal health issues. Mary also noted that anyone attending our meetings could suggest and discuss ideas for exhibits with the commission and there really wasn't a need for a separate committee to meet.

As it stands, Jamie has agreed with the Friends that there should be a sub committee and the committee is to be headed and organized by Rowan. There have been no set

- Second Sunday Speaker Series :
- Exhibit Committee – there is a meeting scheduled in October. Randy and Alan will attend, as well as Jamie, Rowan, Debbie, Paula and Sandy.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Harvest Festival wrap up – we had an excellent turnout with visitors all day.
- Dean Homecoming Weekend 10/20-10/22 – Jan will work both days
- DCR/Archeological events 10/14 and 10/15 – all are encouraged to attend
- Charles Partridge Adams Donation – we will not pursue.
- Deaccession Policy – Rowan is still working on it.
- Circa House signs – Alan presented Stoneham's signs as examples. Will discuss further
- Vintage home research – someone needs to take the lead on this.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Cultural Council Meeting to be held at the museum 10/12/24 at 7pm. Open to the public
- Dean History Reception scheduled for 11/15/23, Alan and Jan to oversee the evening
- Red Brick Schook House Ribbon Cutting scheduled for 10/13/23 – all are encouraged to attend.
- Transition – Mary announced she will be stepping down as chairperson as of the December meeting. New elections to take place in December.

#### COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Jan said commission members should be more involved and attend SSSS presentations
- Phyllis that the Senior Center presented the Stella Jeon Award to Paula Lombardi

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM