



Town of Franklin Massachusetts
Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes December 13, 2023, 6:30 pm

Commission Members Present: Randy LaRosa, Scott Mason, Mary Olsson, Jan Prentice, Alan Earls, Paul Pisani, Phyllis Messere

Others in Attendance: Kai Olsson, Archivist Rowan Lowell

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

DEMOLITION REQUESTS: 240 E. Central, hearing scheduled for Jan 4, 2022 6:30 pm

FFHM Report: No members present

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **TREASURER:** Phyllis reported a balance of about \$3700. The commission only spent about \$300 since the last report. Mary indicated she would get an exact report from the treasurer and also stated that the Commission has received permission to use donation money for speakers.
- **ARCHIVIST Rowan Lowell**
 - >Shelves have been set up in basement and more may be set up in future but now evaluating how much space is left over.
 - >Almost done with cataloging, hope to start deaccessioning in January
 - > Cataloging has been moving in shifts so that about 70 percent is now on Google drive
 - > After everything is accounted for, will add finding aids etc. and develop subject files donations, downtown images, etc.
 - >Hope eventually to get iPad or something similar to make it easier for patrons to locate items.
 - > In response to a question from Mary, Rowan said she can provide a tutorial and probably eventually a static version of the catalog online...depending on what the web site can support.
- **SSSS:** Joe Landry will speak on Jan 14 about Thompson Press and nearby Soap Factory. Mary is looking to fill two more SSSS. Slots. Alan agreed to talk about history of Valentine cards for Feb SSS on Feb 10
- **CPC Report:** Phyllis said still no CPC meeting scheduled. CPC expects to received \$313,000 from state.

OLD BUSINESS

- Scott expressed appreciation for all the help on the exhibit, especially last-minute addition of working electric trains and wooden toy trains by Mary. Scott mentioned having been contacted by Daddario family regarding Jack Sr.'s train collection. Nothing that seems relevant to the museum mission.
- Mary reported that Boston Cane was awarded the week prior to Harriet DiMartino by Nancy Danello, currently waiting for cane's return.
- Mary reported recent donations from Rod and Gun Club's Greg Chiklis. He said he would come again.
- Recently received old photos and posters from Mary Brunelli, things that belonged to Albert Brunelli and first Town Councilors.
- Also got donation from woman who did book on Pondville in Norfolk. It took her three years and could be a model for us. She will bring more copies for Commissioners and others.
- Mary got permission to run 1-hour Ken Burns conversations on Ben Franklin with Mandy Patinkin on Sun Jan 21 in connection with Ben Franklin Book Week. Reporter from RI PBS is not available.

NEW BUSINESS

- A new slate of officers was nominated, seconded and voted unanimously, namely
 - >Chair, Alan Earls
 - >Vice Chair, Mary Olsson
 - >Treasurer, Phyllis Messere
 - >Secretary, Will Lee
- Adjournment was voted, unanimously, at 7:37 pm