

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD of DIRECTORS

MINUTES of ANNUAL MEETING

February 22, 2018 ~ 6:30pm

Thompson Hall

PRESENT:

Leigh A. Webb President
Karen Darling Co-Recording Secretary
Dan Cerat Assistant Curator
Glenn Morrill Director
Annette Cain Director
Steve Foley Director
Chris Lewis Director
Guests: Karen Grzelak, Dan Darling

ABSENT:

Linda Pauwels Vice-President
Carlton C. Ham Treasurer
Bob Morin Co-Recording Secretary
Annette Andreozzi Curator
Will Clark Director
Dennis Swett Director

AGENDA:

- **Slate of Officers and Board of Directors for 2018 Season:**
 - Karen Darling willing to continue as Secretary, as Bob Morin has expressed no interest in the position and has been absent from meetings all last year
 - Dennis Swett's and Glenn Morrill's terms expire this year
 - Glenn agreed to continue; Dennis cannot
 - Will Clark may need to step down
 - Karen Grzelak and Rita Norander are potential candidates for the vacant positions
 - **Roster Update:**
 - Karen & Carleton working on this
- **Speakers and events program for this year:**
 - Tentative programs and Society events in 2018 include:
 - April- showing of two Red Young silent 16 mm films (these were digitized for \$235 by company in Massachusetts that has local drop site in framing shop in

Manchester). One is of 1928 @ Odell Park. Pictures of Dudley Ladd House (site for Underground Railroad) and recent photographic donations

- May- Northern Railroad (Ken Cushing)
 - May- also Community Day (Sat. May 12th)
 - June- New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell (NH Humanities Program)
 - June- also Society Plant Sale at Webster-Tay
 - July- Drapeau and Shepard Family scrapbooks- has some of Sentinel Pine (slide show possibility)
 - August- Field Trip (to be put to membership at April mtg. for ideas of where and when)
 - Sept.- Journal-Transcript 1970's slide show- Sesquicentennial Events (1978)
 - Oct.- Real Haunted Stories- Jim Prew presenter
 - Nov.- Franklin Historic Homes Part II (tentative) or "Then and Now" that Leigh could set up (esp. some of 1936 flood & street scenes & NH D.O.T. photos, Sanborn Bridge and former businesses)
 - Dec.- Society Potluck (Dec. 9th tentative) at Thompson Hall (so as not to conflict with FRH Lights of Memory on Dec. 1st)
- **Projects for this year:**
 - Building maintenance needs – “parallel” scaffolding needed for second-story vinyl siding removal and wood siding preservation work. Leigh would need use of it for a couple weeks. Steve will check with friend who has a "man lift" that may work that we can borrow.
 - Parking lot light- Leigh working to get motion light installed on parking lot side of garage now that Easter Seals has powered garage with our electricity.
 - Plaque for the Sentinel Pine with image and historical information – try to pinpoint site and find access (in Clark/Proctor Street area but need to get exact location if possible.)
 - Theatrical backdrop conservation- Paul Morrissette owns Odd Fellows Building- he showed Leigh backdrops done by Egbert Foster, circa 1925. Acorn Foster was a painter who also created backdrops that are behind stage in lower level of Masons' Lodge. Leigh has been in touch with Curtains Without Borders to see if we can possibly acquire for no cost and preserve.
 - Historic home recognition (plaques). Man who does these wood signs that are at a cost of \$10 that possibly Society can promote with name and year of home, etc.

- Clearing a path and creating steps to the Stevenstown Fort marker/plaque (lots of poison ivy that would need to be treated; Steve mentioned Prescott Towle is licensed as vegetation specialist for weed abatement; also consider Scouts to assist with clean up)
 - In future keep in thought that maybe we can fix boards on Trestle with grants when Mill City Park goes in. Leigh would need to confirm in Concord if State of NH still owns it and get permission from Dept. of Trans. to do this- end result would be from a distance would look like it did when still in use.
 - Bike parking rack for museum (Webster-Tay House) so people on bike trail could use when visiting museum on open weekends. Let Leigh know if anybody knows of or hears of one. Right now people are leaning bikes up against building as there is no other provision and a rack would be nice addition for visitors since we are adjacent to bike trail.
- **Facebook presence and reasons for water-marking**
 - Lots of "Likes" on Facebook.
 - Steve, Karen and Joya monitor it. Steve and Karen have done some updating because Joya has not been well.
 - Copyright and owned material protection is the rationale for watermarking.
 - Complaints about visual effect of large watermarking right across middle of photos like a banner and hard to identify places/people. There was a discussion over this and feelings were shared that that issue of watermarking or not and/or reducing size should be a group consensus of the Board and not a decision made by one or two people
 - Photos are reduced to 72 dpi when uploaded to Facebook – not good enough quality for printing from for any kind of effective reproduction as that is a concern.
 - Leigh will experiment with reducing water mark on photos for Facebook (such as in right corner quadrant and smaller).
 - **Volunteerism – how to encourage**
 - Use Facebook as one way to seek volunteers- opportunities are varied for volunteers such as helping at plant sale, helping at Community Day, being a Docent at the museum, grounds care and assisting with arranging exhibits, etc.
 - **Education Committee** (Chris Lewis gave report):
 - Creating 4 "traveling museum" trunks for schools/classrooms especially aimed at Grades 3 and 4 for teachers to check out; each would have artifacts (mostly replicas so that

originals are not at risk of damage) and documents pertaining the the trunk theme. Trunks currently being created are: *Then and Now, Flora and Fauna, Industry and Artifacts- Main Street/Central Street, Geography*

- Leigh mentioned he used a letterpress printing company in Concord and possibly could obtain clean prints of a copper plate negative Chris has.
- Steve mentioned to Chris that he has two trunks.
- **Cookbook Committee** (Dan Darling gave report):
 - Dan showed mock-up of cookbook to-date – plan is to have available at Community Day
 - 100 pages, spiral-bound – 100 copies would cost us \$500; sell for \$10 each (Society would realize a \$5 profit per each one sold).
 - Need more stories
 - Have several historic Franklin cookbooks at Society – committee to look through for maybe inclusion of some additional recipes- Franklin Women's Club, St. Mary's School, etc.

Museum Details/Update

- Open for season on Memorial Day weekend; change to Saturdays from Sundays
 - Need volunteers to train as docents – always welcome
 - Leigh to put plaque on the door of our newspaper room (upstairs room over meeting room) dedicated to the Lewis Family for all the Journal-Transcript newspapers they donated. Chris noted she also has a box of photos of the 1970's used in articles of Journal Transcript that she will get to Leigh. Leigh also noted he has some taken by Tim and Jan who were Journal Transcript reporters and they appear to be from 1960's/1970's. He would really like to find their last names to give these photos their credit. He also has some by Fay Mahoney- a FHS founder.
- Planning new display: artwork of Florence Jackman, Franklin High School- Class of 1905 – have several of her botanical drawings. Her work was not framed. Florence was a teacher and member of Congregational Church; Glenn Morrill knew her. Glenn will check with church members on what school/grade she taught.
- New Display: Linda Keegan and Helen Hird artwork display on both walls in meeting room.
- **Special Endowment Project (Planned Giving)**
 - Planned Giving document that people could sign and date that shows certain monies pledged to be donated to Society either before or after passing- a "Living Legacy." Leigh will

send something to Atty. Chris Seufert for ideas on a specific pledge form that makes Society part of an individual's will. There was discussion of this being a well thought out initiative as some members who were very active and passed had items of Society stored in their attics, basements, etc. before we had Webster-Tay to store these historically rich items. At times, family members did not honor or know that these items were of the Society or were promised to the Society and they were either sold at auction or disposed of as refuse by family members- some even after Society officers approached family who were not gracious of the item's historic value, never to be replaced.

- **Topics brought forth by an officer or board member:**
 - Steve mentioned a man from Andover Historical Society named John Hodgson authored a 300 page book on Richard Potter- world famous African American magician from Andover, NH around the 1820's. The area Potter Place (section of the Town of Andover and railroad stop) was named after him and there is a plaque at Potter Place behind the Potter Place (Andover) Historical Society Station Museum about him. Suggestion that we maybe look into John doing a program for our Society on Richard Potter.
 - Also idea was expressed on maybe a future program on Underground Railroad in NH. Tied in with this as a Franklin connection, there was discussion about a servant of the Thompson Family who is laid to rest in Webster Place Cemetery and her tombstone which is significant and more elaborate than the family she worked for reads "Lived esteemed and died lamented." Karen posted a picture of this gravemarker on Facebook.

The Board thanks Glenn Morrill for arranging use of Thompson Hall for our meeting.

Meeting concluded at 8:07p.m.