



Town of Franklin Massachusetts  
**Historical Commission**

**Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2026 , 6:00 pm**

Commission Members Present: Alan Earls, Phyllis Malcolm, Jan Prentice, Scott Mason, Will Lee, Brandon Carrico, Archivist Rowan Lowell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from December 10, 2025 were unanimously approved.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**FFHM REPORT:** No members present. The Commission is going to meet with the Friends of the Museum to request \$3,498 at the meeting February 8th.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **TREASURER:** No new business.
- **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:** No new business.
- **FRANKLIN 250TH UPDATES:** The 250th Committee got lots of ideas from the originator of the Easton and Sharon 300th Anniversary Committees.
- **ARCHIVIST UPDATE:** Rowan has been working to update the website with more current exhibits and an online donation portal. Patty Howe is helping Rowan digitize more Chilson photographs. Scott suggested that every commission member come up with an exhibit for the next meeting. Rowan put forward a new exhibit procedure, which was accepted as presented by the Commission. Scott made the motion to accept, seconded by Jan. The vote to accept was unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Alan reached out to the teacher at Tri-County who is coordinating the bell stand. He reported that work was in progress.
- Alan thanked Scott for his work on the exhibit and to Jan for working during the school vacation. He also thanked Brandon for keeping us open Thursday evenings.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Alan made a motion to accept the changes to the Old Congregational Meeting House, seconded by Jan. The vote to accept was unanimous.
- There is a large paper cutter, an old television, and some red TJ Maxx display cabinets. Will motioned to deaccess all three items, seconded by Scott. The vote to deaccess was unanimous in favor.
- Alan is working on creating a short Horace Mann film.
- Jayson Joyce wrote a letter to the school department proposing a Horace Mann Day.

- Dennis Ferguson wants to create another music program. Alan suggested dusting off the Edison phonograph.
- The Senior Center will be bringing seniors to the museum on a bus on January 28th.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Brandon volunteered to do research on Franklin during World War II, perhaps to be a Second Sunday Speaker in September.
- Scott will be doing a talk on Charles Sweeney, captain of the Bockscar bomber who lived in Franklin.
- Will brought up presenting to the Council on historic districts again.

ADJOURN:

Scott motioned to adjourn seconded by Jan. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:03 PM.