



Town of Franklin Massachusetts  
**Historical Commission**

**Meeting Minutes, March 11, 2026, 6:00 pm**

Commission Members Present: Alan Earls, Phyllis Malcolm, Randy LaRosa, Jan Prentice, Scott Mason, Will Lee, Associate Member Mary O’Leary, Archivist Rowan Lowell. Members of the Public Present: Joseph Fagnoli and Ursula Weffers, Dean College School of Business

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from February 11, 2026 were unanimously approved.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Joe and Ursula discussed the strategy for increasing marketing and revenue for the Museum. A group of student volunteers will be working with the Commission to identify pain points and devise plans to mitigate them. The first meeting between volunteers and Commission members will be Wednesday, March 18.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

FFHM REPORT: No Friends present.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **TREASURER:** Phyllis submitted the budget summary to the Treasurer’s office.
- **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:** Meeting scheduled in May.
- **FRANKLIN 250TH UPDATES:** Alan reported that the 250th Committee has \$50,000 to spend by June and is organizing events, such as a parade in September 2028, and a final send-off event at Lake Pearl in November 2028.
- **ARCHIVIST UPDATE:** Rowan received a summary of the donations for the previous calendar year. Rowan visited the Federated Church to index their artifacts and documents and presented the Commission with a list of their inventory. There are several items of interest to the museum. Rowan reported that the Sons of Italy exhibit is slated for April. The Fakes and Forgeries exhibit will begin in May and end in early June after Porchfest.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Museum will continue using the demo version of the Kiask in conjunction with Sudheer.
- Will reached out to Julie McCann about getting on the agenda to present about local historic districts to the new Council. Jamie responded that the Council probably won’t have space on the agenda until the fall.
- Alan relayed that the GIS Department is updating the StoryMap and is seeking input from the Commission and Archivist.
- Former Commissioner Connie Lawson is returning as a volunteer.
- Alan relayed that the Friends approved \$3,498 for the Museum, among that \$1,000 for the “depot diorama” as an addendum to the Train Town exhibit.
- On Sunday April 26, Dennis Ferguson will be playing jazz.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Jan asked Rowan if there are items in the archive related to the “Brothers of the Brush.” Rowan answered affirmatively.
- Scott asked about moving the red display cases while we wait for them to be sold and removed.
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ADJOURN

Scott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jan. The vote to adjourn was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.