

FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of March 23, 2009

The meeting of the Foxborough Historical Commission (FHC) was officially convened in Memorial Hall at 7:28pm. Present: Vice-Chairman Paul F. Godin, Secretary Kristin A. Hovey, Kenneth A. Bryant, Robert M. Grahn, Bruce B. Roberts and Donald L. Wright; Associate Members Christian Arcaro, Emelie J. Bonin, Robert E. Hicks, Official Town Historian-Commissioner Emeritus John P. Authelet and Honorary Life Member Richard D. Leggee. Absent: Chairman Carl J. Kusch and Associate Member V. Taylor Ford.

Minutes:

Corrections on the February 23rd meeting minutes:

Memorial Hall Activities: inventory list changes: Annual Street List and Town Reports moved from office to the library. Emelie made a correction: Annual Street Lists are in the library and the annual reports are in the office.

Corrections on the March 14th special meeting minutes:

The photo we submit will be hung individually as well as the photo submissions from the other 27 counties. Should be "the other 27 towns".

Bob G. made a motion to accept the February 23rd minutes and the March 14th special meeting minutes as corrected, Bruce seconded. All were in favor.

Bills and Budget Matters:

Bills:

Dennis K. Burke, Inc. - Oil	\$197.57	(3/5/09)	
Dennis K. Burke, Inc. - Oil	\$ 52.49	(3/18/09)	
National Grid – Memorial Hall	\$103.98	(2/18-3/18)	
National Grid – Paine School	\$ 10.95	(2/18-3/18)	
TransCanada	\$234.41	(2/18-3/18)	
U.S. Post Office – FHC	\$ 3.36	(2/1-2/28)	
Verizon Centrex	\$ 14.58	(1/20-2/20)	for March
Outlet covers for Mem Hall: 8 switches, 8 outlets and 1 double switch plate (entryway)	\$100.22	(1/26/09) (2/4/09) (2/6/09)	Christian purchased @ Lowe's and reimbursed. He donated 2 plates & the foam insulation under plates.

Correspondence and other Communications:

Correspondence:

- Jack received an email on March 16th from Mass. Humanities and the New England Museum Association (NEMA) who are partnering to offer a two-part Saturday workshop for small museums and historical societies. Topics will include: mission and governance, collections care and preservation, fundraising, education and exhibitions. The workshops will take place in two sites; The Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield and Historic Whitin Mill, Whitinsville.
Part 1: Saturday, April 25, 9:30am-3:45pm and Part 2: Saturday May 9, 9:30am -3:45pm.
Visit www.nemanet.org/workshops/PrimerMA.htm for more information.

Communications: Don has been answering genealogy questions via the foxboroughhistory.org website.

Gifts and Acquisitions:

Gifts:

- 1) Via Jack, Pauline Laursen, PO Box 174, Westport Point, MA 02791 donated:
 - Medicine bottle from Phelps' Pharmacy
 - Medicine bottle from Ouimet's Drug Store

Pauline Laursen is Jay Barrows' daughter-in-law and is Harrie "One Nail" Quimby's granddaughter.

Gifts (continued):

- 2) Via Jack, Milton Parker, Box 633, Sagamore Beach, MA 02563-0633 donated:
 - John P. McDonald Farm Dairy (Foxboro) milk bottle with 5¢ deposit embossing (came from a store, as bottles delivered to homes did not have 5¢ on them).
- 3) Via Jack, Agnes (Bagley) Marchetti, 1913 Alguna Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92648, donated:
 - Copy of air medal citation of Mark J. Bagley (Mark wrote the book, "G is for Guts")
 - Photo of Mark Bagley receiving award from "Instrument Society of America"
- 4) Via Jack, Lisa Fischer (Lisa came to our Jan. 26th mtg.), 17 Eric Lane, North Attleboro, MA, donated:
 - Copy of discharge, Mark Bagley, WWII
 - News clipping of air medal award
 - Two pages of handwritten notes about combat
 - Copies of photos in plane with crew members, two individual head shots
- 5) Via Bruce on duty 3/18, Roy MacDonald, 59 Mill Street, Mansfield donated:
 - Four large, rolled up maps of Foxboro circa 1963
- 6) Bob Grahn donated house tour photos of 67 Spring Street, Foxboro from March 8, 2008. House was demolished.

Paul sent an email on 2/24 to notify the Commission of an eBay auction ending 3/1 for an 1890 Foxboro House Hotel Register Book Signature Lots. The auction price was \$350.00. The auction has ended and it looks as though it was not purchased.

Memorial Hall Activities and Accessioning Matters:Memorial Hall Activities:

- The following was completed at the March 14th work session: moved Foxboro Company records into waterproof bins, consolidated these at foot of basement stairs, utilized 5 drawer Cabinet at foot of stairs, made a clear access in basement, moved low cabinets to low areas in basement to open up more area, cleared the staging area of numerous unboxed books, documented movements of work for future organization and location, consolidated trash to be taken out near the bulk basement doors.
- Emelie came up last Thursday. The printer hasn't been feeding paper or an envelope properly.
- Don moved the copier to a more accessible place. Thank you, Don.

Accessioning Matters:

- Paul has been in accessioning a couple of times this month. Emelie & Paul will be getting back to accessioning. Emelie came up last Thursday. The printer has been moved. It hasn't been feeding paper or an envelope properly.
- Kristin asked the Commission if they knew who brought in a blue container of miscellaneous photos and sheet music. No one remembers it coming in and no one knew who donated it.
- Paul made the suggestion that we give Bob Hicks the authority to go through Foxboro Company photos and determine what we should keep and what we should purge. We will address this at a later time.

Historical Markers: Nothing to report.

Historic House Plaques:Completed:

12 Bentwood Street - "Built for George S. Turner – 1894".

George was the son of Salmon Turner, 49er and cranberry grower. George's mother was Clementine Bird. Emelie noted this is the first plaque for a school teacher.

16 Winter Street – "Built for the Garceau Family – Poultry Farmers – 1933"

Working on:

69 Carpenter Street (Built for Mary Murphy – 1894, looking for photo of women working at Caton Bros.)

21 Walnut Street

14 North High Street

Preservation/Restoration Awards: We will choose the recipients from the list of “Suggested Historical Preservation/Restoration Nominations” at our next meeting. Emelie suggested two more nominees: 26 Baker Street, the Lightbody’s house (previously nominated by Christian, April ’07) and 86 Central Street, the Gaulin’s house. Kristin will send out a revised nominations list.

Paine School Restoration: Nothing to report.

Memorial Hall Preservation Committee: Bob Hicks reported they’re going to try to get the front hall floor repaired. Bob H., Ken and Christian are going out to get three bids for this job. They wonder if there is asbestos underneath the tile. Dick asked if they could pull out a section to get it tested. They can get a section tested. The worst case scenario they foresee is that a professional would have to come in. The ceiling in the hallways also needs to be sanded and repaired.

Data Security Committee: Nothing to report.

Old Business/New Business:

Old Business:

- 1) Norfolk County Registry of Deeds’ request for historic image of Foxboro: Jack was asked by Andy Gala, Town Manager to coordinate the request from William P. O’Donnell, Register of Deeds, Norfolk County, for an historic image of Foxborough to be hung at the Registry with the other 27 towns in the county. The photos will be hung individually with an identification plaque. The Commission discussed the following black and white photos:
 - Photo of downtown Foxboro (Central Street) decked out for the Sesquicentennial (1928). The buildings are still standing (although the brick building lost the top floor - now the bicycle shop) and vehicles of the period are parked out in front.
 - Photo of Memorial Hall showing cannon.
 - Photo of the Common (1928) showing the Common full of people, the trolley, Chinese lanterns hanging up, showing the flag and bandstand. Common fence identifies the location.
 All three of these photos meet the criteria of what the Registry is asking for. The photo of the Common is near the spot where the quote “Gem of Norfolk County” was first spoken. We want something that would let them know why we’re called that. Don said “the Common fence defines the center of town”. Jack said “the Common is the physical and philosophical center of Foxboro”. Don reiterated by saying “we have every reason to believe the Common will still be here in 100 years”.
 Christian showed us a cropped version of the Common photo on the media center screen. Everyone liked this version better. After discussing the three photos the Commission (including associate members) voted on the three photos and the results are as follows: 7 in favor of the Common photo, 1 in favor of the Central St. photo, 2 abstained). Jack will inform the Selectmen of the approved Common photo at their next meeting. Jack thanked Christian for working on the photos with him.
- 2) Ownership of Material – www.foxboroughhistory.org and www.foxboroma.gov: Don and Randy Scollins have been emailing back and forth. Don informed Randy that information (historic house plaques/Fire Dept. history) had been lost. Don wants to ensure that if we are linking our site to the Town’s, we will still keep ownership. Don believes www.foxboroma.gov went live March 6th. Bob Hicks said it’s actually been up since Oct. ’08.
- 3) Foxborough State Hospital Cemetery: Paul emailed Jamie Curtis and Diane Young, the two lawyers, and Carl followed up with a call to them. They are nearly finished with the patient numbers identification. Paul asked the Commission if it sounds reasonable to give the lawyers the Foxboro State Hospital stuff in the blue bins in the cellar when they come for their visit. All were in favor.
- 4) Cultural Resource Inventory list validation: Nothing to report.
- 5) Morse/Johnson house: Christian has letter written to Robert Kraft and is giving it to several Commission members for proofreading.
- 6) Homer White paintings Inventory: Don is still collecting. He is giving his Homer White FHS program outline to Patrick Lyons for review.
- 7) Memorial Hall Database: Nothing to report.
- 8) Orpheum – National Register Status: Nothing to report.
- 9) De-accessioning non-Foxboro items: We discussed de-accessioning military manuals.
- 10) Foxborough Revolutionary War Pensions: Don has collected most of them so we can take it off our agenda.
- 11) Foxboro Company negatives silver reclamation: We had decided not to reclaim the silver from these negatives as it would not be worth the effort. Dick brought up a possible problem with the silver nitrate. He knows about 35mm film that had silver nitrate and it “was like having a hand grenade

without the pin". Paul said we should have the Fire Dept. check this out as they may be familiar with this material that we have stored in Memorial Hall.

- 12) Postcard book: Christian circulated the final draft of Foxboro's chapter in this book. Every town in Norfolk County will have a chapter. Christian reported that Jim Tedesco, who was putting together the summaries and postcards for this book, passed away recently at the age of 47.
- 13) E.P. Carpenter silver goblet: Christian circulated a photo of the coin silver goblet inscribed with and presented to Erastus P. Carpenter and belonging to the Carpenter family. He asked if the FHC would like to consider purchasing the goblet for \$625.00. Christian said the silver price for the weight of this goblet (272 grams) is only \$150. Paul said he doesn't think this is something this Commission can afford. All were in agreement.

New Business:

- 1) Boston Post Cane: Jack notified the Commission of the upcoming presentation of the Boston Post Cane to the oldest person in Foxboro, Harry Cedarlund, who turned 100 on Sept. 9, 2008. Jack will notify the Selectmen before their March 31st meeting where they will sign the certificate honoring Mr. Cedarlund. The presentation is scheduled for April 2nd. One of the selectmen and a commission member will go to his home to present it to him.
- 2) Foxboro Reporter articles: Jack is working on the 250th anniversary of Normandy Farms and the 125th anniversary of The Foxboro Reporter.
- 3) Street Names: Jack presented an opportunity for us to honor the Mosher family by naming a cul-de-sac located at the end of Sand Street (off of Oak and Cocasset Streets) "Mosher Circle" with a small street sign marker. No one would ever live on Mosher Circle and the denoting it as such would not affect the four homes on Sand Street. This recognition would honor the oldest Mosher son who still lives in the original homestead at 10 Sand Street and it would be timely. The Commission had previously chosen the Mosher family name as a proposed street name. All were in favor of naming the Sand Street cul-de-sac "Mosher Circle" as a tribute to the Mosher's, whose family dates back to the early 1900s in East Foxboro. Jack is planning to attend the next Selectmen's meeting to present this proposal to them. Jack also informed the Commission that Charlie Masison would like to have a street named after him. The Commission will take this under advisement.
- 4) Saturday Work Session April 11th: At this work session we will sort through all the boxes behind the table/under the Civil War tablet and continue our work on organizing the archives. Bob said we should not close our monthly meeting until we define our plan for the next work session. Bob also said we need to remap the Hall to make sure that it agrees with the configuration, i.e. Foxboro Company display displaced the Post Office display. Then we'll make sure items are in their place.
- 5) Emelie's balloon: Emelie received a "Welcome Back" balloon from the Commission. Unfortunately it came unleashed from the table, floated up to the ceiling and is resting near the cupola glass.

Current Issues

#	Current Issue	Target Date	Who?	Action and Disposition
20.0	Microfilming of Assessor's Property Books	Ongoing	Jack	Jack reported that the gentleman working with him on this would let him know on his next trip to Foxboro whether fiche or film will work.

Deferred Issues – those with undetermined or delayed dates of completion

#	Deferred Issue	Target	Who?	Action and Disposition
7.0	Outlying cemeteries – assessment of preservation needs	Deferred-TBD	Paul and Carl	Need to keep in mind more inclusive preservation program to preserve stones; consider getting certified preservation consultant.

Motion to adjourn made by Bruce, seconded by Kristin; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm. Next meeting Monday, April 27, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin A. Hovey
Secretary
Foxboro Historical Commission

DUTY FOR COMING WEEKS:

Wed. Mar. 25, 2009 – Don Wright
Wed. Apr. 1, 2009 – Christian Arcaro
Wed. Apr. 8, 2009 – Jack Authelet
Sat. Apr. 11, 2009 – Christian Arcaro (Leader)
Wed. Apr. 15, 2009 – Emelie Bonin
Wed. Apr. 22, 2009 – Ken Bryant
Wed. Apr. 29, 2009 – Taylor Ford
Wed. May 6, 2009 – Paul Godin
Sat. May 9, 2009 – Jack Authelet (Leader)
Wed. May 13, 2009 – Bob Hicks
Wed. May 20, 2009 – Kristin Hovey
Wed. May 27, 2009 – Carl Kusch
Wed. June 3, 2009 – Bruce Roberts
Wed. June 10, 2009 – Don Wright
Sat. June 13, 2009 – Emelie Bonin (Leader)
Wed. June 17, 2009 – Christian Arcaro
Wed. June 24, 2009 – Jack Authelet