

## FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of February 23, 2009

The meeting of the Foxborough Historical Commission (FHC) was officially convened in Memorial Hall at 7:32pm. Present: Chairman Carl J. Kusch, Vice-Chairman Paul F. Godin, Secretary Kristin A. Hovey, Kenneth A. Bryant, Robert M. Grahn and Donald L. Wright; Associate Members Christian Arcaro, Official Town Historian-Commissioner Emeritus John P. Authelet and Honorary Life Member Richard D. Leggee. Absent: Kenneth A. Bryant and Bruce B. Roberts; Associate Members Emelie J. Bonin, Robert E. Hicks and V. Taylor Ford. Our guest tonight was Charlie Clifford.

### Minutes:

Corrections on the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:

### Memorial Hall Activities and Accessioning Matters:

#### Memorial Hall Activities:

- Bob Hicks did Emelie's Hall duty on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, not Bob Grahn.

### Old Business/New Business:

New Business:

- 2) Signage in front of Memorial Hall: Last sentence should read: don't get involved in public hearings, not public hears.

Bob G. made a motion to accept the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as corrected, Don seconded. All were in favor.

### Bills and Budget Matters:

Bills:

Dennis K. Burke, Inc. - Oil	\$178.99	(2/6/09)	
Dennis K. Burke, Inc. - Oil	\$ 79.01	(2/17/09)	
Grillman Propane – Paine	\$140.85	(2/12/09)	
National Grid – Memorial Hall	\$137.91	(1/19-2/18)	
National Grid – Paine School	\$ 12.65	(1/20-2/18)	
TransCanada	\$299.28	(1/19-2/18)	
U.S. Post Office – FHC	\$ 1.68	(1/1-1/31)	

### Correspondence and other Communications:

#### Correspondence:

- Bob Hicks received a thank you note from John and Mary Rossetti of Dover. It said, "Thank you for the response for help in placing the sons of Thomas Grover in your area's settlement. We have a lot of 'homework' to do and maybe these long winter nights won't seem so bad". The Rossetti's requested information on the three Grover brothers who settled in Norton and then branched out into Mansfield and Foxborough. Bob sent them a letter dated Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> listing seven sources of information compiled by Commission members to help them in their research.
- Dr. Haigis' daughter Elizabeth, who married a French count, passed away in France. Jack wrote to her son so he could get information to write a Reporter article.
- Don received correspondence through the website referencing Eleanor Roosevelt's signature. He referred the request to Jack. Jack passed it on to someone else more suitable to research this.

#### Communications:

- Terra Firma #7 Taking Action: A Toolkit for Protecting Community Character  
[http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/terra\\_firma7.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/terra_firma7.pdf)

**Gifts and Acquisitions:**Gifts:

1) Via Carl, Linda L. Buchanan, 12340 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Court, Plantation, FL 33325, 954-625-6527, donated:

- A diary written by W. Reed Greenleaf of the Old Greenleaf Farm, South Street, Foxboro, between 1913-1944. In 1973 Linda asked Reed, who was a salesman with her at the Mansfield Ford on Main Street, if she could have the diary as she was spellbound by the artwork. The diary was no longer an interest to Reed and he gave it to her. This diary has traveled with her for the past 35 years. This diary, written with a pen you'd dip in an inkwell, includes measure and weight tables in the front, beautiful illustrations, things he copied out of magazines and bit of Reed's genealogy. His eccentricity was shown in the data he kept track of: temperature every day, egg and milk production, how it cost 21¢ to produce one dozen eggs (they had 7 large chicken houses and cows), the dividends that he got paid each month and he kept track of the money spent on the care of his eyes (including how much he paid for the left eye and right eye). Linda decided that this book really belonged to the family and/or the Town. She wrote a letter to Carl that accompanied the diary explaining a little about herself and how this diary came into her possession. She was raised in West Bridgewater and graduated from high school there in 1965. The diary has become very fragile so Linda cautioned against too many people handling it. She found a special wooden book box, stained and lined it for a nicer presentation and display. Jack carefully scanned some diary pages and circulated them at the meeting. Jack will be writing a story about the diary for the Reporter.

**Memorial Hall Activities and Accessioning Matters:**Memorial Hall Activities:

- The 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Irish Brigade held their annual meeting at Memorial Hall on Saturday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. They donated \$50.00 to the Commission in gratitude for the use of the Hall. Carl has deposited this in the FHC gift fund. <http://www.28thmass.org>
- Eleven class members graduating from the Hanscom Airman Leadership School fulfilled a last Air Force requirement for their graduation by helping move archival material between the basement and main floor at the Hall on Saturday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. The crew also cleaned up the cellar. Jack wrote a Reporter article about their project and gave the class members copies of it. Jack's grandson, TSgt. Elliot Guenard, was one of the class members and Jack attended the graduation on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Bruce, Don, Carl and Kristin cleaned up, rearranged things to put them where they belong during the Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> work session. Now we have to update the inventory list in the Memorial Hall files to reflect these changes: Annual Street Lists and Town Reports moved from office to library, Dave Ingram's notebooks moved from office to library and Foxboro Reporters moved to the cellar.
- Don suggested we move the copy machine to an accessible area as it is difficult to make copies.

Accessioning Matters: Nothing to report

**Historical Markers:** Carl said John Gaetani is cleaning, sanding and painting the markers.

**Historic House Plaques:** Kristin gave Emelie's report in her absence.

Completed:

50 East Street - "Built for Daniel Hodges, Jr. – Corn Miller & Farmer - 1829".

Working on:

12 Bentwood Street

16 Winter Street

69 Carpenter Street

21 Walnut Street

14 North High Street

**Preservation/Restoration Awards:** Carl asked us to think of any additions to add to the list of "Suggested Historical Preservation/Restoration Nominations". We will choose the recipients in April.

**Paine School Restoration:** The things left to do: the handrail on the right-hand side of the school needs to be installed, Charlie Clifford needs sand and finish the teacher's desk and the bell out in front needs to be bolted to the side of the building. After those things are done Carl said the school can open in the spring. He also said once the school is open people will donate desks. Taylor Ford is donating a framed copy of the Gettysburg Address. Paul suggested a committee be formed of two people from the historical commission and two people from the historical society to plan the opening of the school. Carl was asked if the Memorial Hall and the Paine School will be open on Founder's Day and he said yes.

**Memorial Hall Preservation Committee:** Christian reported that the switch plates in the Hall have been changed over to the new ones.

**Data Security Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business/New Business:**

Old Business:

- 1) Foxborough State Hospital Cemetery: Carl said that we're waiting for a response from the lawyers, Jamie Curtis and Diane Young.
- 2) Cultural Resource Inventory list validation: Nothing to report.
- 3) Morse/Johnson house: Christian reported the letter to Robert Kraft is in rough draft and needs a bit of tweaking.
- 4) Homer White paintings Inventory: Don reported that he is planning a Homer White program for the Foxboro Historical Society in 2010. Don is giving the FHS an outline of his program.
- 5) Memorial Hall Database: Nothing to report.
- 6) Orpheum – National Register Status: Emelie reported via email to Kristin that there is nothing to report.
- 7) De-accessioning non-Foxboro items: Carl said we've got a good start on this.
- 8) Foxborough Revolutionary War Pensions: Nothing to report.
- 9) Foxboro Company negatives silver reclamation: Carl said we are not going to reclaim the silver from these negatives as it would not be worth the effort.
- 10) Lighting on Memorial Hall soldier: Bob Grahn asked if the soldier on top of Memorial Hall will be lit up, Carl said it will.

New Business:

- 1) Saturday Workshop Procedures: We will continue our work on organizing the archives at our March 14<sup>th</sup> workshop.
- 2) Maintenance Committee update and approval request: Nothing to report.
- 3) Town/Commission Website update: Don reported a bit of the [www.foxboroughhistory.org](http://www.foxboroughhistory.org) material, about six or seven of Emelie's house plaque briefs, and Fire Dept. history are now missing since the [www.foxboromaonline.com](http://www.foxboromaonline.com) site is defunct. A woman from Mansfield was running this site but apparently doesn't have our information any longer. Kristin said she will check her files to see if she has a printout of the house plaque briefs that were on the website.

**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 Paul, seconded by Kristin; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. Next meeting Monday, March 23, 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