

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the Deerfield Historical Commission - January 9, 2023
In-person at the Town Offices

Present: John Nove (Chair): Bonita Conlon, Henrietta Kocot, Ben Bensen (Clerk). Absent: Jennifer Remilliard, Guest:, Peter Thomas

Meeting called to order at 5:37pm.

Minutes from September (our last full meeting) noted. Henrietta moved, Bonita seconded, all accepted.

Budget report: We started with \$1175.00; we're now at \$1119.00, due to sundry expenses.

Peter Thomas was invited to share ideas for the 350th. The biggest day will be Founder's Day (May 7), ideally with events all (May 5-7) weekend. Parade options for June 10 are in flux; maybe September? Perhaps Founders Day can be enlarged? He spoke about options for the walking tour, and encouraged the training of guides for active sharing. Mentioned work being done with students by Ray Radigan, curator at PVMA. The Assistant Principal, Scott Dredge of Frontier is willing and very interested to provide a venue and open to "almost anything" useful for the event. There will be a bell-ringing to celebrate the 350th., and bell-making by students. A time capsule is being prepared, for burial in the Fall. Use of the Leary lot would be great for downtown events.

What else might we do? Where? Antique car show and/or tractor show? Both? A number of events would be great. "We need to be far more diligent in bringing history back to the public." [btw: there's a private museum of machinery in Whately, with an open house in June]. Can we do more with PVMA and Historic Deerfield? Avoid over-commitment!

There has been a contest for cancellation stamps for Old Deerfield (01342) and South Deerfield (01373); prizes to be awarded.

Scavenger hunt has many options. Old kids' games. Mentions the

Deerfield Oral History program and the Town's Family History and Places program. There's great opportunity to put videos together for sharing.

Historic Deerfield's next issue of their magazine will have a strong 350th component. Enthusiasm for the use of scanners (for information intake) and digital frame or frames (for display to the public).

Important to include Charles Paine, former slave and veteran of Revolutionary War, died in 1839 (at 105!) in future Sugarloaf St. Cemetery signage.

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Dead of 1704: Deerfield Academy is landscaping the monument in the Albany Road Cemetery in the Spring.

An archaeological survey of the field on 5 & 10 has been completed. DA is likely to start building a temporary baseball field there in the Spring.

Upcoming CPA application session; what can we do to provide something substantial (and permanent) for the 350th? Possibly seek CPA funds to commemorate Native American presence (with text input from a Native American.) for atop Mt. Sugarloaf and interpretive signage for Laurel Hill cemetery. Cost about \$1000 per sign/mounting/computer desgn. Anything else? Next meeting: Monday, February 13 at 5:30pm

All agreed to adjourn at 6:42pm.

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