

**Draft - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On February 27, 2023**

Remote Meeting Connection:

Meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with adequate, alternative means of public access and, where required, public participation provided, in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 which extended the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 20, until March 31, 2023. Meetings are typically broadcast on Frontier Community Access Television (FCAT).

Roll Call: Quorum present

Peter Thomas, chair, present

Carolyn Ness, voting member, present

Jay Stryker, voting member, absent

Holly Lankowski, voting member, present

Kelly Charest, voting member, present

Diane Martin, voting member, present

Telecommunications coordinator, Pat Kroll

Guests who called in: Rocky Foley, Sue Antonellis

Friends of Deerfield representatives: Alex Hershenreder, new president;

Marie Thomas, new vice president; Stan Adams

Meeting called to order: 6:33 pm

Minutes for this meeting: The Steering Committee is currently without a recording secretary; Peter T. will create draft minutes and submit for public posting.

Call for motion to adopt/modify agenda: none requested

AGENDA

Old Business

- **Approval of Minutes for January 30, 2023:** motion to accept, seconded, approved with one abstention, as one voting member was not present at the last meeting.

❖ **Fireworks Update:**

Chris Harris has a formal proposal from the fireworks company. They will hold the day open but will not sign a contract until all permits have been obtained. Things are getting critical and a final determination by DCR about the nesting pair of peregrine falcons is still pending and a permit for the fireworks has not been issued. Carolyn N intends to reach out to Joe Comerford's office for assistance.

❖ Pictorial Postmark Update:

Both the South Deerfield and Old Deerfield post offices have issued their approvals for the cancellation stamp. Kelly and Marie are planning a reception. Suggestion that the stamp ultimately be placed in the time capsule. A ceremony at the school with Robin, the post mistress, is being planned. This will be recorded and posted.

❖ Parade Work Group Update from 1/9-1/23

Holly reported a number of tasks completed:

- All businesses but two have been notified along the parade route have been notified of the timing of the event and any road closures.
- Bus lines were contacted – no issues identified
- Ben Clark has agreed to be one of the MCs for the parade; the committee is working to find two more.
- They have priced the porta-potties, but need to order
- Responses of interest and entry documents are coming in
- Alex H – following a FOD meeting today, he recommended to the 350th Steering Committee that FOD and the Committee work together to provide joint advertising for events, especially for the June 17th and 18th weekend – perhaps one large poster advertising all events could be central to the planning
- If there is interest in having a class reunion at the chicken barbeque, please contact Marie T or Stan A.
- Concern was expressed about what appear to be overly restrictive conditions for participation in the parade. Both Kelly and Holly responded that they had to work with the town counsel and town administration to get these guidelines approved. Members of the Parade Working Group assured the Steering Committee that they would work with all applicants who wish to participate in the parade “to make it work” and resolve any concerns.

At this late date in planning, it is still unclear what “after parade activities” are being planned for Saturday afternoon, June 17th. Sue Antonellis is currently planning only for the June 18th, Sunday event. They have the space at the tennis pavilion at Deerfield Academy, a band, bouncy house for kids, and food trucks.

Considerable discussion then followed about having something for the crowd to do after the parade, most likely focused in the field behind the town office. This quandary needs resolution. A 350th Steering Committee and FOD voted to meet on Monday, March 13 to address this specific situation.

Holly L. requested information about the process for collecting “out of pocket” purchases of materials or payments for participants in the parade. With respect to supplies, the town is tax free and will not reimburse for taxes. If expenses can be anticipated in advance of a purchase Pat Kroll has tax exempt forms which can be given to a merchant to waive the tax. It might also be possible to order from an existing town vendor. Pat Kroll should be contacted to see if this mechanism can be used.

When submitting a request for payment, it must be accompanied by one or more original receipts. Holly L. will note on the form that the items are for parade expenses. This will be forwarded to Peter T, committee chair, for his approval signature. This form and receipts will then be given to Pat Kroll for addition to the warrant. Once approved by the selectboard, a check will be issued.

For expenses that can be anticipated, particularly for services soon after completion, it is best to submit such expenses a month in advance.

Holly requested assistance with obtaining four (4) golf carts for use during the day of the parade. Carolyn N said that she would follow up.

❖ History Working Group Update

- **350th Speakers Program:**
 - *The Sokoki: Their Response to Colonization and Their Role in Northfield’s Beginning. February 19th* : over 200 people in attendance. Presentation filmed with video – currently being edited for showing on public tv stations. Two oral recording. One pdf version of talk to be placed on Deerfield 350th , history page
 - *“The Founding of Deerfield and Its Early Settlement” – March 26, 2 - 3:30 pm, Frontier Regional High School Auditorium, by Peter Thomas.*
 - *“Help us soon or we shall suffer”: Recovering Community Histories of Poor Residents in 18th-and early 19th-century Massachusetts.”* Discover how the town addressed the needs of Deerfield’s poor in days gone by. **April 23, 2 - 3:30 pm, Frontier Regional High School Auditorium, by Barbara Mathews, Public Historian from Historic Deerfield and Smith College.**
- **Oral History Interviews** – 21 completed to date – Completed one major project with John Pekarski – two interviews; transcribed interview in which John talks about what he remembers about 40 family photos from the 1930s-1950s; conducted genealogical research about his family’s arrival in the US ca. 1907 and where they went before coming to Conway and Deerfield; and a history of the Piekarski farm in Conway; and a

poster of photos and his genealogy. These and other projects will be displayed at an open house and discussion session at the Frontier in November.

- **New projects underway:** *Remembering Deerfield, People, Places and Events*

The 350th History Work Group is inviting residents to share up to 10 photos of their favorite Deerfield memories. Photos will be scanned and included in an exhibit later this year - for Founder's Day (May 7th) and probably in November.

High quality scans will be made of photos at the Town Center Conference Room on Monday mornings and Tuesday afternoons for the next several weeks. Sign-ups are available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948A5AD2BA6FAC70-remembering> . Number of photo sessions to date: 6

- **Founders' Day**

Scheduling and Events are still in the planning stages. Tentative elements and proposed budget:

Music: The Farley String Band is 8 yrs. old. They have various instruments and primarily play gigs and reels. They have played at various venues: festivals, private parties, senior centers, Brewery's. They vary the music depending on the venue.

Tolling of the Meeting House bell

Opening discussion about the tradition of bell ringing to mark major events – Peter

50 kids toll the bell, after 50 tolls they sign book and get a Deerfield 350 pin
music plays while this happens

repeats 7x

closing ceremony

The event would be free flowing/casual. We would like Deerfield Jubilee banner, perhaps balloons. Diane M. has ordered netting to hang the bells in. One event will entail using sidewalk chalk for roaming children to paint sidewalks (hopefully sidewalks are intact)

Exhibit of family photos collected by *Remembering Deerfield, People, Places and Events project*

Use lawn between Meeting House and Library –Kids activities - craft tables or games. Tilton Library is interested in joint programing.

It was decided to hold Founders' Day on Saturday, May 6, from 1-4 pm. The library will be closed on the 5th and 7th. Access to the library for bathrooms is needed.

Founders' Day budget:

Archival log- not ordered yet	
archival Eccolo lined executive notebook, 8x10, lined, hardcover, USA-	\$20
Netting for star display-	
4'x50' multipurpose/USA	\$30
Farley String Band	\$200
Sidewalk chalk	
if ok with all	\$30
Deerfield 350 th pins	
Each toller gets a keepsake pin, one of a kind (order 350-400)	\$170
Misc	
ribbons, string for stars, balloons...	\$50

	\$ 500

Acceptance of a budget not to exceed \$500 for Founder's Day was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Need sign-up sheet for kids to participate so we can plan rotation of ringers
The head librarian at Tilton Library is going to provide the name and contact for an excellent storyteller who can perform at the Founders' Day event.

New Business

❖ **Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representative:**

- Alex Hershenreder has recently been elected President, Marie T. Vice-President
- Preparing for the chicken barbeque is moving along nicely, with equipment, caterer, and tickets secured.
- Additional hats and tote bags will be purchased for sale; a few sweatshirts and beer glasses are still on hand.
- **Advertising Plan for the Parade:**
There is plenty of funding between the 350th fund account and what FOD has raised to cover whatever costs are necessary to pay for advertising. The Parade work group should work with FOD on combined advertising.
- **Clarkdale Farm, Clarkdale Fruit Farms History and Peach Orchard Hike**
April 22, 12 noon at Clarkdale Fruit Farms, 303 Upper Road, Deerfield,

Schedules for subsequent meetings have been set for: March 13, March 27, April 24.
All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm by Zoom unless otherwise notified on a posted agenda.

Meeting adjournment: Motion to adjourn, voted in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned
at 8:28