

**Draft - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On April 23, 2024**

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
Friends of Deerfield: Chris Harris, Stan Adams
Others: none

Meeting called to order: 6:32 pm

Note: This meeting was held jointly with officers of the Friends of Deerfield

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

Call for motion to adopt/modify agenda: Update on Town Report activity.

AGENDA

Old Business

- **Approval of minutes from March 25 meeting.** It was unanimously voted to approve the draft minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held on March 25, 2024.

- **Recreation Department Request for Funding**
Peter T was informed by Sue Antonellis from the Rec Department that this organization did not intend to pursue the proposed event that was anticipated to be coordinated with the burial of the time capsule and that the funding commitment from the Steering Committee was no longer requested.

- **Time Capsule and Commemorative Bench Location**

It has proven extremely difficult to identify a spot near the Town Hall or within the village campus to place the time capsule. There are concerns with buried utilities and the uncertainty of future disruption, as considerable construction, or restoration of buildings within the campus are anticipated but are currently undesignated.

For these reasons, Stan Adams, FoD, worked with Kevin Scarborough, Superintendent Public Works Operations, to find an alternate location. The current suggestion is to use Bloody Brook Memorial Park as the site for the bench and time capsule. It is suggested that this could be done as part of a longer-term effort to spruce up the park and monument. Stan has located an appropriate site along the east edge of the park adjacent to a stone boundary marker.

Chris Harris, FoD, presented a proposal, along with a power point set of slides of the park, to inform the Steering Committee. Considerable discussion followed, particularly concerning the distance from the village campus, but given the apparent lack of alternatives, the Steering Committee voted to approve the proposal to install the bench and time capsule at the park and to cover any associated costs, not to exceed \$1,000, with all funds to be expended by June 1.

Peter T. informed the committee that, since the memorial park was within the area of the actual 1675 battlefield, it was archaeologically/historically sensitive. The proposed plan needed to proceed with caution. As he has the appropriate archaeological/historical professional credentials, he offered to pursue these concerns and conduct an assessment within the following few days.

Time Capsule

Stan Adams, FoD, is anxious to compile the items, generate an inventory, and prepare items for the time capsule. Holly and other members of the Steering Committee will try to assemble these by May 1 so that Stan can complete the tasks before the projected date of May 11. It is anticipated that the ceremony will take place in late morning, with a luncheon for 350th organizers and workers to follow.

At the previous meeting, it was suggested that the Selectboard make an appeal at their taped meeting(s) to townsfolk who might also wish to contribute items to the time capsule. Also, Trevor would be asked to post a notice on *Deerfield Now* as part of the appeal. No action had been taken prior to today's meeting.

❖ **Working History Group Update**

Peter T. worked with Pat Kroll on the Steering Committee's report for inclusion in the Town Report. The Town Report has gone to the printers and is expected to be ready for town meeting on April 30. The Report contains 26 pages of text and photos commemorating Deerfield's 350th anniversary and its year-long celebrations.

New Business

❖ **Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representative** – nothing further to report at this meeting.

❖ **Schedule for the next meeting** : *Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm*, to be held as a hybrid meeting, as this is likely to be our last meeting.

❖ **Meeting adjournment:** Motion to adjourn approved at 8:01 pm.