

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the Deerfield Historical Commission, January 22, 2024 - at the Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm Present: John Nove (Chair), Henrietta Kocot, Bonita Conlon, Ben Bensen (Clerk), Jason Clark, guest.

Clerk's Report: Bonita moved, Henrietta seconded that minutes from the November, 2023 meeting be accepted; all approved.

Budget Report: \$1175 still remains in our account.

[**Guest:** Jason Clark, whose property adjoins St. James' Church and the library suggested that instead of or in addition to a North Main St. historic district there might be an ordinance to prevent the Town from requiring just 50' building lot frontage with properties over 100 years old - and therefore more likely to be historic. Jason will ask the Planning Board for their opinion. He would like to see "a level of protection" for the neighborhood.]

Old Business

-Albany Road Cemetery : Money still remains in two funds earmarked specifically for the care of the Albany Road Cemetery. John suggested we find a landscaper to rebuild the mound with soil, and replanting (possibly with thyme) to restore the original appearance in which the footing of the stone was 'buried' and invisible. Bonita offered some mother-of-thyme for planting. John will contact landscapers to get estimates.

-CPA Projects: Previous plan to submit a proposal for the restoration of the Mill Village/Lee St. Cemetery will be held off until next cycle in order to do further research/get estimates. Similar fate for a 'period' fence for the Baptist Cemetery.

-Sugarloaf St. Cemetery interpretive signage: John submitted a draft of the text for comments

New Business

-Annual Report: John shared a draft of the DHC year-end summary for review. It will be submitted for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report.

-Budget request for FY'25: The DHC requested level funding (\$1175.) in the upcoming Town Budget even though Committees and Commissions were requested to reduce their requests for the upcoming year. Because available funds for last year were drastically reduced when the Selectboard approved the purchase

of archival storage materials for town records with 'our' money, it's hoped that our funding level will remain the same as part of a 'pay back' of last year's funds.

=New Town Planner: John mentioned the new Town Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, Chris Dunne.

-Next meeting: March 11, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Ben moved, Henrietta seconded that we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.