

350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On January 30, 2023 Draft minutes approve 2-27-2023

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, absent

Kelly Charest, voting member, present

Diane Martin, voting member, present

Telecommunications coordinator, Amy Hahn

Guests who called in: Rocky Foley, Adam Sokoloski

Friends of Deerfield representatives: Chris Harris, Stan Adams

Meeting called to order: 6:35 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: Addition of: Postal stamp-status report; Calendar

AGENDA

Old Business

- ❖ **Approval of Minutes for November 28, 2022:** motion to accept, seconded, approved unanimously
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes for December 12, 2022:** motion to accept, seconded, approved unanimously
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes for January 9, 2023:**, motion to accept, **seconded**, approved unanimously
- ❖ **Items for Time Capsule:** Chris Harris reports that the time capsule has been constructed and is ready for use. The final shell to contain the capsule will be constructed by Pelican. As there is no need to actually begin filling the capsule, as burial will not occur until the late fall, it was decided that a residents' ideas for what should be included in the capsule should

be sent to the Steering Committee who will make the final decision. Rocky Foley, a regular attendee of the Steering Committee meetings, has agreed to be the Point of Contact for resident's submittals. Submittal should be sent to Rocky at rfoley8439@comcast.net. Rocky will keep the committee informed as to results of this solicitation.

- ❖ **Fireworks Update:** Carolyn N and Chris H are continuing to work with Mass DCR on a permit to launch the fireworks from Mt. Sugarloaf after notifying DCR that the date for the fireworks has been changed to June 17, with optional "rain dates" being June 16 or 18.

If required by later denial of a permit from DCR, alternative sites for launching the fireworks, will be explored, but without a changing the date of the event.

FOD will move forward with contacting with the fireworks company.

- ❖ **Police Coverage:** Sgt. Adam Sokoloski discussed the role of the Police in planning the Parade and have been working very closely with the Parade Committee. He believes that planning will move forward smoothly – considerable work involved, but no foreseeable impediments. The parade, for example, could require from 12-20 officers, some of whom may be required from other towns.

Adam made it clear to the Steering Committee that he will act as our Point of Contact with the Police Department and that he should be looped into all events that involve parking, traffic control, or public safety. A lead time of 30 days or more would be preferable in all situations.

Adam was asked if an event involved the use of the auditorium at Frontier, where parking is available, if a police presence would be required. His response was No.

- ❖ **Okay for 350th Events to the Steering Committee**

There is a pressing need to identify, plan for, and ultimately formulate any post-parade activities on June 17, if any, and proposed activities to be held at Deerfield Academy on June 18. Carolyn N indicated that the Select Board will be working with the Recreation Dept for June 17. FOD, with potential contributing parties, are currently working on plans for the June 18 event. This group will present a draft plan at the Select Board meeting on February 8. It is anticipated that a final proposal will follow.

Carolyn N. indicated that the Leary Lot, across from the South Deerfield common, will be available and mowed for any activities that may need to use the lot during Founders' Day weekend, May 5-7, or at other times. Several events have been discussed for which the Leary Lot would be well suited.

Carolyn N. also indicated that, although renovations to the old Congregational Meeting House are still unscheduled, she did not see a reason why the former sanctuary and foyer on the street front could not be used for a proposed "bell tolling ceremony" and stringing of paper bells by Deerfield school children in the sanctuary could not be conducted.

❖ Request from Local News Station

As we proceed into the year, we are likely to receive inquiries from various new media outlets for information. Once our calendar is put up on the 350th web site and other venues, it is hoped that few inquiries will be made. In the meantime, if a mayor event is to occur, we should try to be pro-active and contact the news media first.

Chris Larrabee at the *Greenfield Recordors* was felt to be an excellent contact.

Duncan at CH 22 news has been interested and can be reached at 616-888-0177.

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

Holly Lankowski, Chair of the Parade Work Group, notified the Steering Committee that she could not attend this evening's meeting. Holly forwarded a summary of items completed by the work group during the past three weeks to the entire committee. These are bulleted below:

- Postcard for date change – prepared and sent out on 1/19.
- Water Dept (staging area) notified of date change and see no issue.
- Kevin Scarborough is handling permits and has been advised of date change.
- Responses from 10 participants received so far.
- FCAT is aware of date change.
- Shriners – Have conflict for 6/17 but can send a smaller contingency.
Clarifying what we could expect.
- MC for Parade – Doug Tierney may have conflict with new date. We should know shortly. We have a few names for other options.
- Franklin County Solid Waste Management District has contacted the Deerfield 350th email about free support for recycling and compost bins for activities we hold.
- Post-Parade activities – Per Carolyn N., now being handled by the Recreation Dept.
- Adam Sokoloski joined us on 1/23 – He was most interested in the post-parade activities schedule/plan. Advised this is now in the hands of the Recreation Dept.
- Adam advised that he is in good shape with the parade plan. It's other activities that the PD needs to be aware of. He advised that our Police Chief needs to be informed of any scheduled events to see how public safety needs are impacted. This needs to be part of any planned event, such as Founder's Day.

❖ History Working Group Update

- **350th Speakers Program:** Peter T. has been organizing speakers for a year-long program to be held once a month, more frequently if possible. It is anticipated that these talks by excellent historians will be held in the auditorium at Frontier on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm. Formal scheduling will be completed soon. The following speakers have agreed to participate and have provided likely titles for their presentations:

Barbara Mathews: *"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.

Kevin Sweeney: *"French and Indian Wars: Writ Large and Small, 1688-1763".* Understanding nearly a century of war in the northern English colonies and how such conditions affected the frontier town of Deerfield.

Gary Sanderson: The Evolution of Deerfield's Landscape. Gary has spent years unraveling the histories of numerous properties in Deerfield and their various owners since the 1680s. Gain a new glimpse into this changing landscape and built environment, particularly in Bloody Brook, now known as South Deerfield.

Peter Thomas:

- *The Sokoki: Their Response to Colonization and Their Role in Northfield's Beginning.* **February 19th** at Trinitarian Church in Northfield.
- *The World of the Pocumtuck* – explore a history of a world the colonists never saw nor understood – **July 6**, Historic Deerfield Summer Lecture Series
- *Immigrants Come to Town: Exploring the Transformation of a Community, 1850 – 1970.*
- *The Founding of Deerfield* – Learn how the town was created as compensation for John Eliot's establishment of a Praying Indian Town in Dedham and how the English settlement at Pocumtuck evolved.
- *The Bloody Brook Monuments: Do They Still Have Meaning?*
- **Oral History Interviews** – 20 completed to date – various products in the works.
- **Family History Program** - Currently working with a group of experienced researchers to create an active program for training residents to explore their own family histories using various approaches - genealogy, photographs, land and house through deeds/land records.
- **Window Display of 300th memorabilia is located at the South Deerfield Pharmacy**
- **Two new projects underway** (excerpted from the advertising):
Remembering Deerfield, People, Places and Events

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

This is Deerfield 2023

In the early 1900s - the Howes brothers, professional photographers from Ashfield and Greenfield, took photos of families standing in front of their houses, creating a great snapshot of Deerfield in the first decade of the 20th century. This collection has inspired the 350th History Working Group to invite residents to take photos of themselves in front of their residences. It need not be an historic house.

This will capture the essence of Deerfield in 2023 - a gift to the future to freeze Deerfield in time. How different will Deerfield be in 2073? Digital photos should be sent to Deerfieldstories2023@gmail.com. Include names, address, date taken and any other information you think interesting (date of construction, ages of participants, etc.). Photos may be published in an online gallery or printed to create a memory book to be submitted to the library and Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA).

New Business

❖ **Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representative:** Discussion of FOD activities occurred earlier in the meeting. Reiterated their pending meeting with the Select Board on February 8.

❖ **Postal cancellation stamp – status report.** Kelly C, has been working with the postmistress, Robin, to complete the application form for official Post Office approval to use the two stamps for US mail. All forms have been filled out. A response is anticipated within a month.

These stamps will go live on May 7th, Founders' Day.

One suggestion to expand the potential impact is to have students write letters to themselves, then put their letter in a stamped envelope and cancel their own letter with the stamps. Kelly to pursue idea with grammar-school teachers.

❖ **Clarkdale Farm**, Upper Road, West Deerfield will be hosting a “Peach Orchard Walk” on Saturday, April 22.

Schedules for subsequent meetings have been set for: February 27, 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 8:06.