

APPROVED MINUTES - DEERFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Present: John Nove (Chair), Henrietta Kocot, Bonita Conlon, Ben Bensen (Clerk) and Jennifer Remillard.. Visitors: John Davis, President/CEO of Historic Deerfield, Lili Dwight

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm

Minutes of January 9th, 2023 meeting: Bonita moved, Henrietta seconded; all approved.

Budget: No expenditures, so funds remain as in January.

Guests:

-Lili Dwight came to discuss possible historic criteria for a CPA submission. She is chair of the Community Housing Commission, and came to discuss the possibility of the Historic Commission supporting a private application for funds to help upgrade the Hotel Warren, which is privately owned, and serves a needy population. Lili would like to establish the building's historical authenticity, with the DHC's support. Several members suggested that she seek funds from MassSave. John suggested that we could declare a structure historic within the guidelines of a CPA project by writing a letter, as we've done in the past, explaining its historic significance of a building within the community context. Ben moved, Bonita seconded that we go forward with writing this letter. All approved. John will write the letter.

-John Davis said that Historic Deerfield's 350th plans will focus on a Deerfield-related exhibit and a larger than normal issue of the Historic Deerfield magazine. His question was how we could encourage residents (who can visit HD facilities free of charge) to get a copy of this issue. It was recommended that a postcard be sent to all households in Town which could be redeemed in person at HD for a copy of the magazine and that the DHC provide HD with a households list for that purpose.

Old Business

John explained that archeologists who were digging on Mill Village Road last Fall without a MHC permit were there because Pioneer Gardens had applied to USDA for

permission to install an irrigation system. The archaeology was being carried out under a Federal permit by the agency's own Resources Conservation Service. A Site Report was received early this February.

John has completed his Town Hall "Made in Deerfield" exhibit. Jennifer mentioned a "portfolio case" made by the Arms Pocketbook Company which she's given to Stan Adams, but hopes can be a part of John's project. It will probably go elsewhere since the exhibit is exclusively contemporary.

New Business

2024 DHC Budget Jennifer moved the we approve the request for Town funding in FY 2024 at previous year's level.

Moving town records from the old Grammar School vault: Peter Thomas has found a new, broader inventory of the documents. All documents must be moved, but only the older ones are likely to be housed under climate-controlled conditions elsewhere. (Nearly all have been scanned by Peter T.) A legal arrangement between the Town and the Memorial Libraries (encompassing both PVMA and HD) should happen, but temporary and safe storage must be obtained in the meantime. Questions about how serious the mold issue is. John Davis was encouraged to weigh-in with the Selectboard directly.

Sugarloaf Signage: Can the DHC sponsor a project for the 350th? Possibly something to do with Mt. Sugarloaf ("the Head of the Beaver") and the Native communities once in the area? Conversations were begun with the DCR and Historic Deerfield/Native representatives. Redefinition of the Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation section emphasizes NOT creating anything. Alternative funding for the project can likely be found.

Possibility of working on restoration of another cemetery ?

Bonita will look into the cemetery at Lee and Stillwater Rds. Cemetery work will need to wait until next year since the CPC deadline is tomorrow.

Bonita asked about the completion of Form B's for North Main St. Peter Thomas has taken over filling the gaps in this project, and may have help from Gary Sanderson. Both are familiar with the area. More than a title search; it will require a sense/context of the Town's history. We need to get the Town committed (survey grants are available annually, but a community match is required.) Can we leverage Town impetus to have this work done in order to help with other projects?

Next meeting will be April 10. Ben moved, Jennifer seconded; all approved adjourning at 6:52 pm