

**Approved - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On March 13, 2023 (Approved on March 27th)**

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: Chris Nolan

Friends of Deerfield: Chris Harris, Alex Hershenreder, Marie Thomas, Stan Adams

Others: Adam Sokoloski (Police Department), Sue Antonellis (Recreation Department), Rocky Foley (resident)

Meeting called to order: 6:37 pm

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: *This special meeting was specifically called to address pressing scheduling concerns; other items, including approval of minutes, will be addressed at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 27.*

AGENDA

Old Business

❖ **Fireworks Update:**

The pair of Peregrine falcons has not yet nested on Mount Sugarloaf, so chicks are not likely to have hatched and left the nest by June 17th. Hence, there is virtually no likelihood that fireworks can be fired from the mountain. An alternative site location for the fireworks is required.

Based on information collected to date, given the physical layout of roads, buildings and railroad tracks, there doesn't seem to be a way to obtain the necessary safety clearance in the area around Frontier.

Chris Harris gave an extended presentation about his efforts to secure a site in Old Deerfield. Two general sites were considered: Eaglebrook and Deerfield Academy grounds.

Fireworks launched from Eaglebrook would have to be restricted due to the wooded surrounding and height above the valley floor. The playing fields south of the main Academy campus offer good opportunities for fireworks display and are feasible even under drought conditions.

Chris has been negotiating with Deerfield Academy for a total program involving after-parade entertainment and fireworks on Saturday, June 17, and a chicken barbeque on Sunday, June 18. Friends of Deerfield is prepared to sign a contract with the fireworks company, who will then obtain the required permits.

Adam Sokoloski, Police Department, indicated that the department had concerns about two scheduled events at Deerfield Academy – a regional squash tournament and antiques show. Both are to be held on the Academy campus on Saturday and Sunday and could possibly create a traffic problem when held in conjunction with the after-parade event and the fireworks.

Adam suggested that the after-parade and fireworks events be shifted to South Deerfield – that there was plenty of parking and the traffic could be better managed on Saturday.

After extended discussion, the Steering Committee voted to authorize FoD to continue to negotiate with Deerfield Academy to put on the after-parade, fireworks, and chicken barbeque events on Academy grounds. It will likely prove apparent within a few days if such arrangements can be made. If not, a fall back to another site will have to be found.

New Business

❖ **Finalize Event Details; Discuss Publicity Plan/Spending:** Given the uncertainty involved with securing a final site, it is currently impossible to address this agenda item. Hopefully, issues can be resolved at the March 27 meeting.

Schedules for subsequent meetings have been set for: 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 8:07