

Approved - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On March 27, 2023 **Approved as amended, April 26, 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, present
Kelly Charest, voting member, present
Diane Martin, voting member, present

Telecommunications coordinator: Pat Kroll

Friends of Deerfield: Chris Harris, Marie Thomas, Stan Adams
Others: Rocky Foley (resident)

Meeting called to order: 6:40 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: none requested

AGENDA

Old Business

- ❖ Approval of minutes from February 27 and March 13. Two minor modifications were requested and accepted. It was moved and seconded that the minutes for both the February 27 and March 13 meetings be accepted. It was voted unanimously to approve the minutes, as amended.

- ❖ **Pictorial Postmark Update**
Kelly C. reported that both postage cancellation stamps have been approved for use by the US Post Office. Because the cancellation stamp may not be used until May 7, and since there will be a lecture given as part of the 350th Lecture Series on the afternoon of May 7, it was decided to use this

opportunity to link these two events. This will be coordinated by Kelly C and Marie T at Frontier Regional High School. As there will also be refreshments served after the lecture, this should be a fun community event.

❖ **Post Parade/Weekend Activities Update and Plan for Advertising**

- Chris Harris has been working diligently to gain authorization from various parties to use Frontier as the site for the fireworks. He reports that an adequate safety zone can be created, that they can work with the railroad to accommodate any train schedule (to be handled by fireworks company) and that there will be plenty of viewing and parking space. He has secured permission from two or the four property owners within the safety zone and is hopeful about the other two.
- He has scheduled a meeting with the fireworks company for next Monday to speak with landowners. If all this is a go, other coordination meetings will follow. Chris was commended for his considerable efforts to date and was wished “good luck” with moving forward.
- Holly indicated that permission has been received from FRS and Deerfield Elementary to use their parking lots for parade participants. Permission is needed to be secured for any post parade activities.
- Sue. A. is coordinating the after-parade events for the 17th. Sue was not in attendance to report on their status.
- Due to past delays in scheduling the fireworks, advertising is becoming a critical concern, particularly for the parade working group. Kelly C. is prepared to coordinate and work with various publicity outlets. **The Steering Committee as a whole authorized the parade working group to move forward independently to begin advertising.** It is anticipated that once the fireworks issues are resolved that advertising of all June 17th and 18th events will be advertised together.
- As no other events have been finalized enough to advertise, the Parade Work Group will move forward on their own to advertise the parade out of their approved budget of \$30,000. Budgeting for future advertising, if combined with other events, will be shared between the general Steering Committee, Friends of Deerfield, and the Parade Working Group.

❖ **Parade Working Group Update**

- Holly L. reports that the working group is making steady progress.
- Parking at Frontier and Deerfield Elementary is secure, Holy Name of Jesus church has offered its parking lot and restrooms, and another church may do so as well.

- Discussions with Scott Dredge at Frontier indicate that students may be available to work with traffic control as part of the students' community service requirements.
- Pam Hodgkins is coordinating signage and other items with PVMA
- Some of the parade participants include the Shriners, two Fife and Drum bands, three other bands, a couple of dozen vintage cars, two towns and various businesses. Other entries are still being solicited and/or discussed.

❖ History Working Group Update

- **350th Speakers Program:**

Peter T. reported that his talk on the 26th about the *Founding of Deerfield and Its Initial Settlement* was well received, with nearly 100 in attendance. The talk was filmed by FCAT for broadcast in the future. Thomas had discussions with about a dozen participants after the formal presentation, including a group of six teachers from Deerfield elementary. The catered buffet and reception that followed, put on by Friends of Deerfield, was delicious and offered members of the community time to chat. This was a wonderful start to the Speaker Series.

Next talk, April 23, 2 pm – Barbara Mathews, HD Public Historian, *"Help us soon or we shall suffer": Recovering Community Histories of Poor Residents in 18th-and early 19th-century Massachusetts.*"

Following, May 7, 2 pm – Gary Sanderson, long-time reporter, blogger, and historian will share his extensive research in a talk titled, *"A New Interpretation of the Bloody Brook Neighborhood."* Settlement in South Deerfield began as early as 1757, but its evolution has not been well documented until now.

- *Oral History Program* interviews are going well. Currently over 25 have been completed.
- *Family History* and *Remembering Deerfield: People, Places and Events* - Multiple people have brought in their old photographs of family and places to be scanned and shared. We are currently working with Tom Clark to create a photo collage of the Clarkdale Fruit Farm and the old Wisdom One-Room Schoolhouse for the walking tour in the peach orchard on April 22.

- **Founders Day**

Diane M. reports that the event is coming together, but the exact scheduling and specific involvement of the school kids is dependent upon getting clearance to allow public use of the old Congregational meeting house. Carolyn N. will arrange a meeting with the town's building inspector, herself, Peter T and Diane M to secure a temporary occupancy permit for this afternoon event. This meeting is planned for April 3 at 1 pm.

- ❖ **New Business**

- ❖ **Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD)**

- Chris Harris, FoD, reports that the Chicken Barbeque and related activities are scheduled for the afternoon of June 18 at the Tennis Pavilion at Deerfield Academy. They have sold 100 tickets to date. When FoD gets its web site updated, it will be possible to buy tickets on-line. Seatings are scheduled for 1, 3 and 5 pm, and, so far, ticket sales reflect a fairly even split among the three time slots.
- FoD is planning to work with John Nove, Chair of the Deerfield Historical Commission, to clear and clean the stone monuments along the parade route using professional techniques and guidance. Once cleaned, the Deerfield Women's Club will continue with landscaping by planting flowers.
- Work progresses with designing and fabricating the outer case by *Pelican* that will encompass the time capsule that has already been completed. The case is anticipated to be ready by the end of July. This should give us plenty of time to fill the capsule and bury it before winter. **Chris suggests that it is not too early to identify the burial site.**

- ❖ **New Business Not Anticipated -- none**

- ❖ **A schedule for the next meeting** had been previously set for April 24.

However, April 24 has been recently scheduled for town meeting. Coordination for an alternate date, most likely April 17th, will be determined and posted in the near future.

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 8:00.