

## DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the Deerfield Historic Commission - April 10, 2023  
Held at the Town Hall

Present: John Nove (Chair), Ben Bensen (Clerk), Bonita Conlon, Henrietta Kocot.

Absent: Jennifer Remillard

Guest: Peter Thomas, local historian

Meeting called to order at 5:31

Minutes from the last meeting, with adjustments from Henrietta: Bonita moved, Henrietta seconded, all approved their acceptance.

Budget: We have \$1119.00 remaining which must be spent by June 30.

### Old Business

- 350th celebration (per Peter Thomas):

May 6-7 Founders' Day - Committee has Selectboard's approval for ringing bells in the former Congregational Church by adults and children. This church has been used for public announcements for over a century. Working to have 350 paper "bells" made, and establish a rotation for ringing, hopefully focused on the kids. There will be buttons ("I rang the bell!") for kids only. Gary Sanderson will speak on Sunday about the Bloody Brook area.

June 17-18 - Parade Weekend - No venue yet for the fireworks.  
Three sittings at the chicken BBQ to be held in the DA tennis pavillion.

-Sugarloaf St.Cemetery - John has been working on an interpretive sign to match the one at the Albany Road Cemetery; next will be Laurel Hill using the same format.

-Peter has cleaned the exteriors of all the bound Town documents in the vault in the 1888 building (former Grammar School). Town records - some from 1799 - will be moved to the PVMA Library. Others belonging to the fire, and water departments, duplicated in the Assessors' records, will revert to the original departments for storage. Also, thirteen volumes of "chattel mortgages" recorded from 1824 to the 1950s and held by the Town Clerk will also be moved. Ben moved, Henrietta seconded that we spend up to \$300 for archival storage boxes for these records. The PVMA Librarian will look into purchasing the boxes

-John mentioned a letter he'd written in support for the Hotel Warren's historic value in response to a request bu Lili North at last month's meeting. He has also written letters to Senators Warren and Markey in support of the Selectboard's application for funds for the 1888 project.

-Historic Deerfield is hoping to make copies of the "Deerfield 350" issue of their magazine available to each household in town. Ben moved, Bonita seconded that we pay \$90 to have the postcards, once printed and posted, sent by Hadley Printing to a curated mailing list of approximately 2400 households they will purchase.

-Each Deerfield post office will be able to cancel stamps on May 8 with two designs created by elementary school children and chosen in a contest.

-A woman has offered (via "Deerfield Now") to "clean" stones in the town's cemeteries. Not sure about her qualifications; to be encouraged to contact the DHC, especially since many stones were cleaned a few years ago. The Town DPM notified as well.

#### Correspondence

Letter from Chris Harris/ Friends of Deerfield about volunteering to clean four monuments (Bloody Brook/ the slab at 100 North Main St. and the Native American/300th and civil engineering monuments in front of the Tilton Library) all on the 350th parade route. DPW also notified. The Commission approved of the work.

Next meeting will be May 8.

Bonita moved, Henrietta seconded; all approved adjournment as of 6:43pm.