

Approved - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On April 26, 2023 Approved at meeting of May 9.

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: Chris Nolan

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

The Friends of Deerfield conducted a concurrent meeting so that they could formerly address any issues that fall within their purview.

Others: Rocky Foley (resident)

Meeting called to order: 6:34 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 March 27 meeting.** Two minor modifications were requested. It was moved and seconded that the amended minutes for March 27 be accepted. It was voted unanimously to approve the minutes, as amended.

❖ **Pictorial Postmark Update**

• The program has been planned and announced on the web page.

- At Town Meeting, Rocky Foley recruited 6 individuals to help with the parade. A volunteers meeting will be held within the next few weeks to discuss specific roles.
- It was suggested that the Working Group contact the High School coaches and the National Honor Society to see if they could raise more volunteers.

❖ Working History Group Update

- A discussion of local history, a wonderful photo exhibit, and a walking tour of the Clark Orchard in Wisdom (West Deerfield) took place on April 22. It was led by Tom and Ben Clark. Approximately 30 folks were in attendance. Tom displayed a collection of terrific photographs of the orchard, open landscapes, and the adjacent, one-room schoolhouse.
- Barbara Mathews presented her research in a talk and slide presentation on Sunday, April 23 at Frontier. Her topic was - *"Help us soon or we shall suffer": Recovering Community Histories of Poor Residents in 18th-and early 19th-century Massachusetts.* It was very well received by an audience of about 30. The refreshments were delicious, and lively discussion followed.

• Founders' Day Weekend – a three-day celebration

Friday

Students at Deerfield Elementary School have been crafting commemorative bells which will be strung adjacent to the library and meeting house on Friday morning, May 5. Students will be led from school to the site by the Frontier Marching Band.

Saturday

A COMMUNITY GATHERING will be held on the lawn between the old meeting house and Tilton Library on Saturday, May 6, from 1-4 pm. Everyone is invited to come and bring a chair or picnic lunch and enjoy the festivities.

- The commemorative garland of bells will be on exhibit.
- The FARLEY STRING BAND will provide musical entertainment.
- The STONE SOUP CAFÉ CULINARY INSTITUTE was to provide light refreshments, but the group has just informed Diane that they cannot come due to a staffing shortage.
- Students and a parent are invited to TOLL THE MEETINGHOUSE BELL, with a goal of ringing it 350 times. Commemorative buttons and ice cream will be given to bell ringers by Friends of Deerfield. CHALK ART on the sidewalks.

- *There is a pending safety concern with allowing young children into the balcony area due to the low railing in front. Several solutions were suggested. One suggestion proposes that the church bell be rung from outside the building. This and other alternatives will be considered.*
- *This concern will be addressed as soon as possible. P. Thomas will work with Bob Walden, Building Commissioner, to find a solution.*
- *Marie T. will work with FCAT to figure out ways to make the graffiti on the walls of the bell town inaccessible - maybe a video that can be played outside on that day.*

Sunday

Two events will be held on Sunday afternoon at Frontier Regional auditorium, from 1-4 pm, on June 7.

- RECOGNITION CEREMONY for students who designed a Pictorial Postmark for the US Post Office, 1-2 pm.
- Gary Sanderson will share his extensive research on the life and times of the early Bloody Brook neighborhood, 2-3:30 pm, refreshments following.

• ***New Business***

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

- Fire marshal has approved the field south of Tree House Brewery as the site for shooting off the fireworks. The best viewing will be from Tree House Brewery and from the field behind Frontier Regional High School. A number of details, such as lighting, have yet to be worked out.
- Kudos to Chris Harris for his long hours of work to bring this to fruition.
- Chris suggested that we might be able to get additional individuals and groups to participate in the parade by having a “Who is coming to the parade”? campaign. This by way of advertising who has already committed to come, as an incentive to others to get involved. *Chris will pursue this idea with the Parade Working Group.*
- Chris has been working with the Grybkos to provide bus transportation from South Deerfield to Deerfield for the chicken barbeque on Sunday. The Parade Working Group has been working with them as well.

❖ **Mural Request:** Judith Inglese, artist from Leverett, has asked if Deerfield would like her to create a ceramic mural to be placed on the brick wall of the town

hall as part of the 350th anniversary. It would likely be 3 x 4 feet in size. Judith is willing to seek grant funding to make the mural. *Carolyn N. will obtain more information and report back at the next meeting.*

- ❖ A question was raised about the location of the 300th anniversary time capsule. It is thought that it is near the stone in the yard of the library, but no one on the committee knew the exact location. *Carolyn N. will contact Wolfram and Decker to see if they can provide additional information.*
- ❖ Marie T., FoD, has been exploring the possibility of hosting some CPR/first Aid training in the fall for seniors, parents, and students - Save a Neighbor Day. This could be held in conjunction with another 350th event, such as a photo exhibit of the Fire Department – Past and Present
- ❖ **A schedule for the next meetings :** Tuesdays at 6:30, May 9, May 23, and June 6.
- ❖ **Meeting adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.