

**Final - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On May 20, 2024**

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. This meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, with members of the Steering Committee either at the Town Hall or calling in remotely.

Roll Call: Quorum present

Peter Thomas, chair, present
Jay Stryker, voting member, absent
Holly Lankowski, voting member, present
Kelly Charest, voting member, present
Diane Martin, voting member, present
Tim Hilchey, selectboard representative
Telecommunications coordinator: Pat Kroll
Friends of Deerfield: Chris Harris, Stan Adams
Other Attendees: none

Meeting called to order: 6:30 pm

Note: This meeting was held jointly with officers of the Friends of Deerfield

Minutes for this meeting: The Steering Committee is currently without a recording secretary. Peter T. will create minutes and submit them for posting.

Call for motion to adopt/modify agenda: No other items were added to the agenda.

AGENDA

Old Business

- **Approval of minutes from April 23 meeting.** It was unanimously voted to approve, without amendments, the draft minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held on April 23, 2024.

- **Time Capsule and Commemorative Bench Location**

At the last Steering Committee meeting in March, it was proposed that the memorial park around the Bloody Brook Monument be used as the site for burying the time capsule. The Steering Committee approved exploring this location.

As town-owned property, state law requires consideration of the archaeological/historical potential of such sites, particularly if there is a potential for finding artifacts and/or features associated with a significant historical event. The park is in the immediate vicinity of the Bloody Brook ambush and subsequent fight during King Philip's War on September 19, 1675. P. Thomas raised a concern that important archaeological remains might be present. He indicated that he would contact the Mass Historical Commission and discuss the situation.

The Commission responded that an archaeological survey should be conducted, but that a permit for such a study would take several months to issue. Thomas followed up with a metal detector survey of a small area that had been selected for burying the time capsule and installation of the granite memorial bench. The metal detector indicated that numerous metal items were buried in this area. It was concluded that an alternate site would need to be selected.

A new site was located in the northeast corner of the former Congregational Meeting House at 71 North Main Street, located well away from where the Bloody Brook fight occurred. This area is roughly 40 feet north of the meeting house and a large tree, so that neither previous construction disturbance nor tree root systems are anticipated. It is also only a few feet away from the sidewalk, so people could easily access the bench to sit on.

During this meeting on April 23, this new location for installation of the time capsule and bench was unanimously approved by the 350th Steering Committee.

Time Capsule

It was agreed that Friends of Deerfield would coordinate site preparation and any ceremonial events that would accompany the burial of the time capsule. Friends of Deerfield also proposed sponsoring a luncheon following any ceremony conducted.

It was agreed that all items going into the time capsule by members of the Steering Committee would be submitted to Stan Adams, FoD, within the week and that the ceremony and luncheon would occur on June 8 at 11:30. FoD would prepare a program and advertise the event through multiple media.

P. Thomas noted that he was preparing a separate compilation of Steering Committee meeting notes and other items for archiving with earlier town memorabilia at the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA).

❖ Working History Group Update

Peter T. reported that the Deerfield Oral History Project has produced a 52-minute long video, consisting of excerpts from interviews with Deerfield residents, accompanied by nearly 100 photographs about Deerfield's agricultural heritage during the past century. Polish and Ukrainian family histories are also a prominent feature. The piece is titled, "And That's The Way It Was." The video has been well-received by reviewers. It is now available for public viewing on the web at *Deerfield350.org* and will soon be available at other venues, including *Facebook* and *You Tube*.

New Business

❖ **Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representatives** –nothing further to report at this meeting.

Meeting adjournment: *It was unanimously voted to adjourn this as the last official meeting of the Deerfield 350th Steering Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.*

Submitted by Peter A. Thomas, Acting Chair, Deerfield 350th Steering Committee. My thanks to all the committee members for a job well done.