

**Draft - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On June 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, absent
Diane Martin, voting member, present
Telecommunications coordinator: Pat Kroll
Friends of Deerfield: none in attendance
Others: none in attendance

Meeting called to order: 6:35 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: no item added

AGENDA

Old Business

- ❖ **Approval of minutes from June 6 meeting.** It was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held on June 6 with a single addition of clarification.

- ❖ **1973 Time Capsule Update.** Peter T. reported that he had gone through all of George Melnik's (chairperson's) notes and minutes of meetings for the 300th and found no reference to a time capsule, nor was a committee created for such a purpose. It was decided that no further pursuit of a purported site will be made unless someone with firsthand knowledge of a site comes forward.

A formal vote of the Steering Committee on the future location for burying the time capsule for the 350th celebration needs to be taken in the future.

❖ **Proposal for a Heritage Festival**

- Jeanne Sojka joined the Steering Committee meeting to introduce herself and to present a tentative program schedule for a festival to be held on the weekend of October 14 and 15. The festival is proposed as a joint venture with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association. Other sponsors or participants may come forward.
- A tentative program is proposed as follows:
 - On **Saturday, October 14** from 12 noon to 5 pm at 10 Memorial Street in Deerfield the program includes music, Polish cultural and craft speakers and demonstrations, Polish genealogy, amber and Polish items for sale, family activities, an Ellis Island immigration program, displays of Eastern European immigrant photos and artifacts. Free refreshments of Polish and Ukrainian desserts, coffee, tea, and bottled water will be available. The public may opt to purchase lunch from a Polish food truck on Saturday. Memorial Hall Museum will be open from 11 am to 4:30 pm and will offer an unguided tour of immigrant items in the museum.
 - On **Sunday, October 15** from 1 pm to 4:30 pm at Frontier Regional School in South Deerfield, the program will feature Polish and Ukrainian folk dancers; Dr. James Pula who will speak on the Kosciuszko Squadron -its creation after WWI and its role in helping to win the Battle of Britain; and displays of Eastern European immigrant photos and artifacts. Free refreshments of Polish and Ukrainian desserts, coffee, tea, and bottled water will be available.
- *All events are to be free and open to the public.*
- A number of entries and facilities planning have yet to be confirmed. The auditorium at Frontier has been scheduled for the Sunday events.
- Jeanne has developed a tentative budget of \$6,300. So that booking of invited speakers, demonstrators, and other participants, as well as logistical tasks can be arranged, the 350th Steering Committee voted a not-to-exceed appropriation of \$7,000 for the proposed festival. Other funding may become available.

- Peter Thomas will act as the liaison for the Steering Committee and will work with Jeanne and other volunteers on program development and implementation.

❖ **Parade Working Group Debrief**

Submitted by Kelly Charest & Holly Lankowski, Parade Co-Chairs

- Though small, with only seven members, our parade workgroup worked well together. Everyone was a go-getter, often going above and beyond. Our slogan might have been “Small but mighty”.
- The rainy weather was disappointing, but most participants managed. Due to it, we lost around 9 parade participants. One surprise entry also appeared.
- The feedback has been good, not aware of any negative feedback. Other Steering Committee members reported similar positive responses.
- The 42 volunteers that showed up the week prior and the day of the parade were amazing.
- The efforts of the entire police department were extraordinary, which made everything flow very smoothly. No mishaps were reported.
- Holly gave a particular shout out for the extraordinary help provided by Adam Sokoloski and by Kevin Scarborough and his team.
- The MassDOT and Water District lots worked splendidly as staging locations. Personnel were wonderful at both locations and helped prep the areas, so they were ready for use.
- The vintage costumes created by members of the Deerfield Women’s Club were so well received that they have been invited to march in the 4th of July parade in Charlemont.
- A hardy thanks was conveyed to the Parade Working Group by other members of the Steering Committee.

❖ **Working History Group Update**

- Peter T. will present a talk titled “**World of the Pocumtuck**” as the first in Historic Deerfield’s *Summer Speaker Series: Indigenous Histories of the Mid-Connecticut River Valley*. The talk will be given at 7 pm on July 6 at the Community Center in Old Deerfield. It may be attended in person or by zoom and is free to everyone. Pre-registration on the Historic Deerfield web page is required to either obtain tickets for seating or to obtain the zoom

address (<https://www.historic-deerfield.org/events/2023/6/2/summer-lecture-series-indigenous-histories-of-the-mid-connecticut-river-valley-9rdxy>).

- Other talks in the series include Colin Calloway, Dartmouth College, “The 1735 Deerfield Conference: Indigenous Diplomacy in Action” on July 13, and Margaret Bruchac, University of Pennsylvania, “Hiding in Plain Sight? Reconsidering Native Histories Along the Kwinitekw” on July 20.

❖ **Friends of Deerfield Update:** No update was provided.

New Business

❖ **Schedule for the next meeting :** Monday, July 31 at 6:30 pm.

❖ **Meeting adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.