

**Approved - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting**  
**On July 31, 2023 Approved on August 28**

**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
- Others: Jeanne Sojka (PVMA), Alli Masley (Tree House Brewery)

**Meeting called to order:** 6:33 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 26 meeting.** It was voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held on June 26 with a requested addition to the Parade Working Group report.
- ❖ **Eastern European Heritage Festival in October Update**
  - Peter Thomas is acting as the liaison for the Steering Committee and will work with Jeanne and other volunteers on program development and implementation. Diane Martin of the Steering Committee, PVMA staff, and FoD members have joined the Heritage Festival working group. Thanks to members of the Steering Committee who have responded to e-mail queries about festival activities.

- P. Thomas reported that his background research had not identified any local groups or organizations that could represent the Irish and German immigrant communities that arrived in Deerfield between 1850 and 1896 (when Deerfield lost most of these families to Greenfield during the annexation.) For this reason, the title of the event has been changed to the *Eastern European Heritage Festival*.
- Jeanne Sojka suggested several individuals or organizations that might be able to weigh in on the Irish and German immigrant topic. We may be able to work these immigrant groups into later programming and oral history program.
- Jeanne Sojka presented a flyer listing all of the major events that are currently being planned for the Eastern European Heritage Festival.  
Synopsis:

**Eastern European Heritage Festival. *Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup>, 12-5 pm, Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 pm.***

- Details have yet to be finalized, but events will include the Eddie Forman Polka Orchestra to which folks can dance, a Polish dance company performance, a talk by Dr. James S. Pula about the Kosciuszko Squadron that played a critical role in the Battle of Britain during WWII, Polish cultural and craft displays, demonstrations, and hands on instruction for children and adults, historic and genealogical research, and more. Meals and refreshments will be available. Saturday events will be held in Old Deerfield at the PVMA Teacher Center (old grammar school yard and inside rooms); Sunday events will be held at Frontier Regional High School.
- A draft flyer for the event was presented to the Steering Committee. The proposed programs were very well received. Other suggestions for inclusion were presented and will be taken into consideration by the Heritage Festival working group.
- Members of the Steering Committee discussed food options, bake sales, a farmers' market, licensing fees, etc. with Jeanne Sojka. Her working group will explore suggested options as event planning moves forward.

**❖ Treehouse ½ Marathon Update**

- Alli Masley joined the meeting as a representative of Tree House Brewery, the sponsor of a Half Marathon race on the morning of September 17, beginning and ending at the brewery facility on Route 5 & 10. To date, 2,100 runners and 400 spectators have already registered for the race, which

is now at capacity and registration has closed. Activities in the afternoon at the brewery will be closed to anyone who did not register for the race.

- Alli informed the Steering Committee about a number of start-up or planning activities that have already begun.
- Tree House will be looking for a number of volunteers to help with the race – to give out water, etc. Volunteers will be given a tee shirt. Volunteers can sign up on the Tree House web site.
- Alli informed the Steering Committee that Tree House is looking forward to being part of the 350<sup>th</sup> celebration. Discussions then shifted to how Deerfield's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary could be linked with the race event, with a number of suggestions being presented – web page links, use of 350<sup>th</sup> logo, etc. Alli and the company will take these under advisement and will discuss this further at a later date.

### ❖ Working History Group Update

- July 6, Peter T. presented 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 was attended by approximately 80 people at the Community Center in Old Deerfield and roughly 200 listeners remotely.
- July 13, Colin Calloway gave a wonder talk on the **1735 Deerfield Conference** between Governor Belcher and about 60 Indigenous representative and the complex protocols of Native diplomacy.
- July 20, Margaret Bruchac informed the audience about the presence of Native Americans in the Connecticut Valley in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and provided the fascinating stories of many individuals and their activities.
- Upcoming talks scheduled:
  - *Peter Thomas, “King Philip’s War Comes to the Connecticut Valley – Exploring the Fight at Bloody Brook and Other Events.” Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.*
  - *Dr. Kevin Sweeney: “French and Indian Wars: Writ Large and Small, 1688-1763”. Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Kevin will discuss nearly a century of war in the northern colonies after King Philip’s War and how such conditions affected the frontier town of Deerfield.*
- November and December are still open. Some suggestions were made. Anyone on the committee or the public at large are invited to recommend specific programming.

- Photo/art exhibit of **Deerfield houses** documented in early photographs (e.g., Howes brothers) and artwork inspired by them can be viewed at the Town Office in South Deerfield during *August* and at Memorial Hall during *September and October*.
- **Mural.** P. Thomas reported meeting briefly with Judith Inglese, the artist who the Steering Committee has authorized to move ahead with an exquisite ceramic mural commemorating Deerfield's history. Judith reports that she is prepared to move ahead, but she is currently in a fund-raising phase. Chris Harris indicated that Judith has been working with Friends of Deerfield, a 501c3, to set up an account for tax deductible donations.

### **New Business**

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

- Chris Harris provided an overview of their program funding and associated expenses to date (see next item below). A limited cost re-allocation of expenses during the June 17-18 festivities remains to be resolved and will be handled by the chair.

#### **❖ Deerfield 350th Anniversary Expenses**

- P. Thomas presented a brief financial report for the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund derived from five town meeting authorizations totaling \$70,000.
  - Total expenses charged as of 6/30/2023: \$35,490.98
  - Estimated expenses to be paid: \$2,670
  - Total estimated expenses for FY2023: \$ 38,160.98
  - Total available funds: \$31,839.02
  - Total currently approved to fund future events (as of 7/31/2023): \$ 7,000
  - Current unallocated funds remaining: \$24,839.02
- It is further noted that *Friends of Deerfield* has done an exceptional job of fundraising to support Deerfield's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They have funded over \$100,000 of event expenses to date and remain committed to funding additional activities associated with the Eastern European Heritage Festival, the 350<sup>th</sup> Deerfield Speaker Series, the Deerfield-Northfield Softball Game, and other events that may be programmed.

**❖ Schedule for the next meeting :** Monday, *August 28 at 6:30 pm*, to be held remotely.

**❖ Meeting adjournment:** Motion to adjourn approved at 8:04 pm.