

DRAFT MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE DEERFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
IN PERSON AT THE TOWN HALL -  
AUGUST 14, 2023

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

**Clerk's Report:** Approve June\* minutes for posting : Henrietta moved, Bonita seconded; all approved.

**Budget Report:** During FY23 we spent \$923.90 of the usual \$1175. Recent expenditures included conservation boxes for Town records (now stored at PVMA), and purchase of a household mailing list to send Town residents a card entitling them to a free copy of Historic Deerfield's 350th Anniversary issue of their magazine. The arrangement as been augmented so that households without cards can submit a half-sheet of paper or blank card to receive their copy. To date, nearly 200 copies remain unclaimed.

**Old Business/Updates:**

Upcoming talk: On September 17th, the anniversary of the event, Peter Thomas will speak about the 1675 Native American ambush of a Colonial wagon train at Bloody Brook. Frontier High School, 2PM.

Mt.Sugarloaf signage: John has talked with DCR about the Historical Commission's interest in creating interpretive signage during the Town's 350th Anniversary to acknowledge the presence of Native Americans in the area in pre-Colonial times. State regulations are complex, so the process is still in the works.

Town records residing in the basement of the 1888 Building were certified as mold-free, and thus acceptable for storage at the Memorial Library. More records have been located in the Clerk's office vault. Peter Thomas will be taking an inventory and scanning some of them., with these records to join the ones already moved.

Deerfield Academy project(s): The temporary baseball field and the temporary dining hall projects are moving ahead. Archeological supervision has been done during this process.

**New Business:**

Indian House Museum Renovation: PVMA has funding to repair roof and chimney, but needs permission from the state and town to proceed with work. The Town has authorized the Historical Commission to hold the Historical Preservation Restriction, and thus, the DHC needs to vote approval of the project. Ben moved, Bonita seconded that

the proposal for repair work to the Indian House's chimney and roof using comparable materials to the existing ones. All approved.

Albany Road Cemetery broken stone : Claire Carlson from HD reported a broken grave-stone which had previously been repaired. The Historical Commission has two gift funds available for use only in the Albany Rd. burial ground, and John suggested that this could be a project for these funds. He and Ben will also look into the availability of split chestnut or ash for repairing the split-rail fence.

Next meeting will be September 11, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Conference Room at Town Hall.

Ben moved, Henrietta seconded; all approved adjourning at 5:33pm.

\* note: The July meeting of the DHC was not held because of lack of a quorum.