

Approved - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On August 28, 2023 Approved during meeting on 9/25/23

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: Chris Harris, Stan Adams
Others: Jeanne Sojka (PVMA), Alli Masley (Tree House Brewery)

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: no item added

AGENDA

Old Business

- ❖ **Approval of minutes from July 31 meeting.** It was voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held on July 31.
- ❖ **Eastern European Heritage Festival in October Update**
 - Jeanne Sojka provided an update of event planning.
 - A one-page flyer for the event has been prepared and can be printed and posted in various forms and sizes once a few items have been finalized, such as sponsors to be included, a notice of “No BYOB” to be added, computer IP obtained.
 - Jeanne inquired if a second permit will be required for the tent to be loaned to PVMA by Eaglebrook for its Fall Festival when it is used for

- the Heritage Festival. Carolyn N. responded Yes, but any additional fee will be waived.
- She is currently working with Berkshire Brewery to serve beer and wine on Saturday. This will need a permit. The “No BYOB” notice becomes doubly important for the liquor liability.
 - **Jeanne to send Peter T. a list of the AV requirements for the events on Sunday.**
 - The next planning committee meeting for the Heritage Festival is scheduled for August 31 via Zoom.

❖ Working History Group Update

- Upcoming talks scheduled:
 - ***Peter Thomas, “The Tale of Bloody Brook: An Early Event during King Philip’s War, September 18, 1675.” Sunday, September 17th.***
Notices have been on our web, social media and town site, sent for posting to PVMA, Historic Deerfield, Whately, Hatfield and Northampton Historic Societies, and flyers posted at town hall, library, schools and businesses.
 - ***Dr. Kevin Sweeney: "French and Indian Wars: Writ Large and Small, 1688-1763". Sunday, October 22nd, Frontier Regional High School.***
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.
 - ***Dr. Kevin McBride, “King Philip’s War, the Battle of Great Falls/Peskeompskut (May 19, 1676): A Review. Sunday, December 3rd, Frontier Regional High School.*** McBride, Principal Investigator of a ten-year project funded by the National Park Service, will present a fascinating historical and archaeological study of a battlefield that extended over an eight-mile corridor between the Riverside district of Gill and a ford across the Deerfield River north of Pine Hill.
- **A list of speakers and dates/times of events will be provided to FoD to ensure good coordination.**

Other Old Business

- The softball game between Deerfield and Northfield went off without a hitch and, from all reports, everyone had a terrific time. P. Thomas sent out a memorial poster of the players after the game.



Commerative Poster
- Deerfield.docx

- Communication from the chair of Northfield's steering committee to P. Thomas indicated that Northfield is evidently looking for a rematch. Discussion with various parties this week indicates that another game is not likely to happen.
- Photo/art exhibit of **Deerfield houses** documented in early photographs (e.g., Howes brothers) is being moved to Memorial Hall for the months of ***September and October***.
- **Mural.** No member of the Steering Committee or FoD had any update to share.
- **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. Alli reported that the planning process is progressing well and all major town agencies have been coordinated with. It was noted that the race will begin at the brewery at 8:30 am. All contestants are expected to complete the race by 12:30 pm.
 - Treehouse does need more volunteers. A notice regarding the need for volunteers has already been added to the 350th web site.
 - As a spin-off of this discussion, FoD has volunteered to man one of the water distribution stops. Logistical discussions followed, but this effort will be handled exclusively by FoD. FoD will also work with Treehouse to develop some type of keepsake for the runners to commemorate Deerfield's 350th anniversary celebration.

New Business

❖ Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representative

- Chris H. and Stan A. were active participants in the Steering Committee meeting discussions above – Heritage Festival, events, race.
- Chris H. reported that FoD has already received the time capsule and larger encapsulating case to be used for our Time Capsule. Both are on display at the town office. We need to plan for how best to move forward.
 - To date, Rocky Foley, Peter T., Carolyn N., Diane M., and perhaps others have been accumulating items for potential inclusion in the time capsule. Short term, we need to develop a composite list of items so that we have a collective idea of what could be included.
 - **H. Lankowski will ask Rocky Foley to begin an initial list of items.**

- We need to establish a group structure to coordinate Time Capsule activities, oversee the collection process, document the collection in multiple formats, prepare the capsule and select a site for burial.
- Several sites in Old and South Deerfield were suggested. Further research is needed.
- Discussion turned to timing. When the Steering Committee held initial discussions many months ago, the number and timing of events during the 350th were poorly known. A late fall timing for burial of the capsule was contemplated. As events are now extending into December and much editing of digital, photographic, and other data will need to be processed and archived before burial, the Time Capsule will unlikely be ready for burial until Spring of 2024. (Founder's Day on May 7, or close to it, might be an appropriate choice, but further discussion is clearly needed.)
- During discussions, the topic of dismantling the 350th cake was raised. This event could provide an additional occasion in early November for celebrations and community involvement. This notion needs to be pursued. **FCAT and Steering Committee members have been documenting the history of the cake and need to be brought into discussions.**
- **Peter T. will contact Leverett to make sure that they are still prepared to move the cake to its new site and that all work well be coordinated.**

❖ **Schedule for the next meeting :** *Monday, September 25 at 6:30 pm*, to be held remotely.

❖ **Meeting adjournment:** Motion to adjourn approved at 7:50 pm.