

**Approved - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On September 25, 2023 Approved at Meeting on October 30, 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: Chris Harris, Stan Adams
Others: Jeanne Sojka (PVMA), Claire Carlson, HD Liaison

Meeting called to order: 6:30 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 last meeting.** It was voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held on August 28.
- **❖ Treehouse Half Marathon**
 - Report-out from FoD, as the Steering Committee played no direct part in the event.
 - Carolyn N reported that she had heard that everything had gone fairly smoothly
 - Peter T reported that he had taken photos of the runners coming down North Main St and that attendance of residents along the street was extremely low. Runners thanked him for coming out.

- Chris H, FoD, reported that he had identified five areas for improvement and that he had sent these off to Treehouse.
- Stan A reported that FoD had recruited a large number of volunteers, had given magnets with 350th logo on them to the runners and had provided breakfast bags for the teams at the water distribution sites.

❖ **Eastern European Heritage Festival on October 14 & 15 - Update**

- Jeanne Sojka provided an update of event planning.
- Events during **Saturday** include:
 - Polka music by the Eddie Forman Orchestra for dancing and listening;
 - A catered Polish plate lunch from Bernat's Polish Deli (to be pre-purchased); beer and wine by Berkshire Brewing Co;
 - Polish cultural and craft displays and demonstrations by Susan Urban and Wiesława Bogdańska;
 - A talk by Father Charles Dimascola about the history of the Polish people in the valley;
 - Memorial Hall Museum will be open from 11 am to 4:30 pm for self-guided tours; and
 - The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, and the Polish American Foundation will present exhibits and other information;
 - and more.
- All **Sunday events** have been confirmed and will consist of :
 - A Polish traditional folk-dance group, called Piast;
 - a Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, called The Zolotyj Promin;
 - a talk by Dr. James Pula about the Kosciuszko Squadron, its creation after World War I and its role in helping to win the Battle of Britain; and
 - free Eastern European traditional refreshments by Kathleen Tomaus Catering sponsored by Friends of Deerfield,
 - The Polish American Citizens Club of South Deerfield and Eagle Brook have provided donations and equipment.
 - Press releases will be going out soon to a wide variety of distribution points – press and digital
 - Two Ukrainian Churches will have display tables
- Stan, A. indicated FoD needs folks to help sell raffle tickets on both Saturday and Sunday.

❖ Working History Group Update

- Recent talk:
 - **Peter Thomas, “The Tale of Bloody Brook: An Early Event during King Philip’s War, September 18, 1675.” Sunday, September 17th.** The talk went very well, with somewhere between 75 and 100 in attendance – this on the most beautiful summer day we have had all year. It generated considerable interest and positive comments. The food afterwards was excellent and folks enjoyed extended conversations with one another.
- Upcoming talks scheduled (confirmed, posters to be made)
 - **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.
 - **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.
- **Cake dismantling:** P. Thomas and Fred Beckta met with members of the Leverett team led by Silas Ball on September 19. The schedule for dismantling has set based on availability of participants and equipment. Take down will occur on Saturday morning, October 28, beginning at 8 am. FCAT has been notified so that they can film the event.

New Business

❖ Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representative

- Chris H. and Stan A.
- Time Capsule Inscription: Prior to this meeting, Stan A. sent out a mock-up of an inscription for the granite stone to mark the location of the time capsule for discussion and approval by the Steering Committee. After a brief discussion of the proposed inscription, discussions relative to the

proposed stone expanded, further information was requested, and discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

❖ **Time capsule inventory**

- Holly L. provided an inventory of materials that Rocky Foley has compiled to date:
 - Town of Deerfield annual report 2022
 - Historic Deerfield 350th periodical
 - Deerfield annual town meeting 2023
 - 350th parade application and participants
 - Letters with 350th postmarks
 - Founders' day pin
 - 350th tumbler and party favor
 - Deerfield Fire Department badge
 - Newspaper about [July 26](#) 2023 flooding
- Peter T indicated that he had collected a number of items, including a commemorative beer can produced by Berkshire Brewery; a signed soft-ball from the Deerfield-Northfield softball game, posters from Founders' Day and from the historic lecture series, and various items drawn from oral history project.
- Holly L. was requested to ask Rocky Foley if he would act as coordinator of proposed objects for the time capsule and keep a list of items.

- ❖ Town Report – 350th Anniversary will be featured in the next town report. Carolyn N. indicated that Pat Kroll will be working on the town report in the coming months and would like to include photos of various 350th events throughout the year. She is particularly looking for a picture of the large anniversary cake for the cover. Peter T. indicated that he had compiled photos from a number of events and would give a set to Pat. Other photos can be sent directly to Pat.
- Holly L. asked about including committee reports, specifically from the parade committee for the town report. These are needed. Peter T. will coordinate an overall review of the 350th celebration which will include the parade and other committee reports for events throughout the year.

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

❖ **Meeting adjournment**: Motion to adjourn approved at 7:46 pm.