

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting of the Deerfield Historic Commission, November 20, 2023 at the Town Hall.

Meeting called to order at 5:25pm Present: John Nove (Chair), Bonita Conlon, Henrietta Kocot, Ben Bensen (Clerk) , Jason Clark, guest

Clerk's Report. Bonita moved, Henrietta seconded, all approved acceptance of August 14, 2023 minutes. Lack of a quorum and medical issues resulted in postponing the September and October meetings.

Budget Report. We haven't spent any money yet in FY'24; balance is still \$1175.

[**Guest.** Jason Clark who lives next to St. James Church at #81 North Main St. came to the meeting to express his concern about the plans for senior housing adjacent to his house. He wants to see the neighborhood involved in information sharing and planning, and would prefer not to have St. James Church torn down as a recent proposal suggests. He thinks that having it and other nearby buildings as part of a North Main St. historic district would help. (MHC has told the DHC that no single building can be nominated for historic designation in the area; instead, an entire historic district would be required for the Municipal Campus including Form B inventories for the Town Hall/Police Station. 1888 Building, Congregational Church, Tilton Library, Frontier Elementary and most likely St. James as well.). A potential inventory grant would have to be matched by the town. Is now a good time to do this? Also, Deerfield doesn't have a demolition delay ordinance (like Florence, where Jason previously served on a civic committee, does) This could help to slow/prevent rapid destruction. Many concerns, many projects; price concerns.]

Old Business

-Final 350th event: Dec. 3. - Archaeologist Kevin McBride, who has refined the process of following the path of Captain Turner's retreat from the Great Falls Fight via the trail of musket balls will give a presentation. JN, representing the DHC, has been a part of the Advisory Board of this grant for the past 10 years.

-John has been locating all the cemeteries in town including two private church cemeteries : the Polish National Catholic Church owns a small section of St.Stanislaus' Cemetery and the Descent of the Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church has a plot on Long Plain Rd. on the Whately border.

-There will be a town-wide church history event on December 10.

-During the August meeting we voted to approve PVMA's request to do repairs with its own funds on the roof and chimney of the Old Indian House Museum. John has written and delivered this letter. Much of the work has already been done.

-Possible repairs to the Old Albany Road Cemetery discussed. There are funds available to do work there. Replacing locust rails between brick pillars of the perimeter fence is a possible project.

-Restoration of the Mill River Cemetery a good candidate as a CPA project for the upcoming cycle.

-310 of 350 Historical Deerfield Magazines (350th anniversary special edition) were kindly offered by HD and claimed by townspeople.

-Because of the MLK Holiday, our next meeting will be on TUESDAY, Jan. 16, 2024.

-Ben moved, Henrietta seconded, all agreed to adjourn at 6:25pm