

**Approved Minutes of the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting**  
of January 31, 2022 – Approved during Steering Committee Meeting on February  
28.

Remote Meeting Connection:

- Broadcast on Frontier Community Access  
Television (FCAT)

Peter Thomas, Interim Chair for this meeting

**Roll Call:**

Peter Thomas, voting member, present  
Jennifer Remillard, voting member, present  
Carolyn Ness, voting member, present  
Jay Stryker, voting member, present  
Holly Lankowski, voting member, present  
Kelly Charest, voting member, present  
Diane Martin, voting member, present

Thomas declared a quorum present

Telecommunications coordinator, Alex Herchenreder

Guests who called in: none

FOD representative: none

**Meeting called to order:** 6:42 pm

**Minutes for this meeting:** The Steering Committee is currently without a recording secretary; Peter T. will create draft minutes and submit for public posting.

**Call for motion to adopt/modify agenda:**

- **Added** one announcement about a Senior Center project

## **AGENDA**

### **Old Business**

- **Approval of Minutes for December 27, 2021 Meeting:** Minutes approved unanimously. Peter T. will post the draft minutes as approved and the draft minutes for today's meeting.
- **Post Office Cancellation Stamp, Draft of Contest Announcement:** Jenn R. presented a mock-up of an announcement advertising a competition to create a postal cancellation stamp for the 350th anniversary. It was very well received by the committee; the members offered positive suggestions about the formatting. Jenn was encouraged to move forward with the final design. The contest will be announced May 2 and the competition submittal must be in by September 2, 2022. This provides sufficient lead time to approve the final design at the next meeting. The contest will

be open to all children who attend Deerfield grammar school, Frontier Regional junior high and high school, and the technical school.

- **Status of Wood from Downed Trees:** Carolyn will get board-foot measurements and provide the information to FoD.
- **Parade Entry Documents:** Holly L. has completed the entry documents for the parade. She conveyed these to Carolyn N, who has submitted them for legal review.
- **Kick-off Weekend Lighting:** As part of the lighting ceremony in January 2023, the question was raised as to how the lighting would be installed on the commons in both Old Deerfield and South Deerfield. Jenn R. met with Kate Lawless of the Commons Committee to see if the committee would handle the lighting for the 350<sup>th</sup> as well. Kate asked if we had any specific ideas. Diane M. suggest that a sign be created for the common announcing the 350<sup>th</sup> (template suggested); the sign could then be lit. Jenn R. will follow up with Kate. If the committee agrees to the sign and incorporate it into the lighting, the Steering Committee felt that this was a good opportunity to pass this task on to a qualified and interested group. Jenn will also ask if the Commons Committee would be willing to set up in Old Deerfield as well. She will report back.
- **Arrangements to cover events with FCAT –** Do we still need to consider having one or more still photographers? It was decided that we would rely on the general public to take photographs and submit them for archiving through social media. We will encourage photo coverage as well by sending out press releases.
- **Laser-cut Christmas tree ornaments?** After brief discussion, the Steering Committee decided that this was an appropriate project for the FoD to undertake. The vote was 6 for turning the project over to FoD, with Jenn R. abstaining.
- **Anniversary Cake Disposition:** Jenn R. has determined that Leverett does indeed want the anniversary cake for 2024. It is the Steering Committee's decision to transfer the cake to Leverett around Thanksgiving of 2023 before really inclement weather sets in. Jenn asked if she should get the committee members from Leverett and Ludlow together to discuss their transfer process. Yes. The committee should advise both the Leverett and Ludlow folks to be present when the cake is dismantled in Whately and/or assembled in Deerfield this coming December to see how it is done.

## **New Business**

- **Friends of Deerfield (FoD)Up DATE.** The FoD has just received their 501C3 certificate from the IRS and will soon be pursuing an active campaign to raise funds for the 350<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, this certification has come much quicker than anticipated. This was welcome news to everyone. Congratulations.
- **Agenda and Posting Responsibilities.** Due to an anticipated increased commitment of time with the parade committee, Holly asked if someone else on the steering committee would take on the responsibility for creating the agenda, acquiring the web codes and submitting the agenda for posting on the town's web site. With no immediate volunteers, the request was tabled until next meeting.

- **History Working Group update:**

- Peter T. has not been able to schedule a longer meeting with the headmaster of DA to discuss the 350<sup>th</sup> further due to substantial covid infection on campus. He will try in the coming months.

- Peter T. met with Dean Rohan, one of the partners in Tree House Brewery, on January 11. He and Dean had an extended discussion about incorporating 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/historic displays in the facility, particularly in a long, open hallway to the outside. Dean was positive and said he would discuss it with his partners. He also gave Peter T. a tour of the public facilities currently under construction. Some space might easily accommodate small group events, they may not be completed in time for the 2023 celebrations.

- Peter T. and Gary Sanderson have been doing extended research on Deerfield mills, partially in preparation for the workshop John S. and Peter T. will give later this year per our grant from the Local Cultural Council.

- Peter T. has acquired data related to the birth of children in Deerfield between 1850 and 1910, which includes the ethnic origins of their parents. Of over 4,000 individuals listed, the parents of nearly half the total came from Ireland, Germany, England, Poland and Scotland. This should be a springboard for research into cultural diversity within this town. If anyone would like to tackle a project, just let Peter know. Peter will send a copy of the spread sheet to all members of the Steering Committee.

- **Steering Committee Report for Town Report** – Due in early March. Who will write? Peter T. will write the section for the History Working Group; Jenn R. and others will write other portions of the steering committee report. The committee's two new members will be highlighted. Carolyn N. strongly suggested that this report not only look backwards, but also look forward by highlighting the planning that has been done for various events like the postal stamp competition, parade, LLC grant and workshop.

- **Other business not anticipated – Proposed Senior Center activity.** Jenn R. informed the committee that she has taken the job as the new Director of the South County Senior Center. She began today.

One of her proposals is to use the senior center as a venue to do oral histories as part of the 350<sup>th</sup> programs. Peter T. indicated that seniors might also be interested in identifying and providing information about several hundred 1900-vintage photographs of Deerfield homes. The senior center would also be a good site for scanning old family photographs that could be archived as part of the town's legacy to future generations. He will discuss further with Jenn.

**Meeting adjournment:** Motion to adjourn. Voted in the affirmative – unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28

**Next Regular Meeting:** Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6:30 pm