

APPROVED MINUTES

Deerfield Historic Commission

Meeting of February 14, 2022
5:30 - 6:30p.m. at the Town Hall

Present: John Nove (Chair), Jennifer Remillard, Bonita Conlon, Henrietta Kocot, Ben Bensen (Clerk)

The meeting called to order at 5:38pm

Clerk's Report

Jennifer moved, Bonita seconded that the minutes for December (our last meeting) be accepted; unanimous approval. (A previous discussion of record keeping and information transmittal encouraged John to buy USB thumb drives for the Commission's future use.)

Budget Report

No money has been spent yet this year so our annual budget remains at \$1175. (The charge for the thumb drives mentioned above has not been processed.)

Old Business

Town Buildings / CCI Report: Jennifer reported that there was a water leak in the Old Grammar School / former Senior Center, but town records in the vault were not affected. Repairs have been made, and the plan is to still move forward in having the building renovated. An application for CPA funds has been submitted for the project. Part of the former Congregational Church will be repurposed (temporarily) as a Senior Center. The documents in the vault are being checked by Peter Thomas; they will be professionally assessed, if required, for mold- and water damage. This work includes emptying the safe, which has already been inventoried, and getting permission from the Selectboard to move the records to safe and secure storage, ultimately off-site and most likely to the to the PVMA Library where researchers can have access to them.

Keys: John has created a master collection of keys for DHC storage. Keys will hopefully come to reside in the Town Clerk's office.

350th Anniversary: Jennifer reports that plans continue to evolve. A gala is proposed, to be held at Deerfield Academy on December 30 of 2022 as well as a parade in June of 2023. The 350th committee has discussed reenactors taking part, as well as what else could be done as part of the celebrations including Founders' Day on May 7th. John suggested an ox-drawn cart full of wheat accompanied by militia reenactors from Essex County as well as local farmers to commemorate the Bloody Brook Massacre. The 350th celebration committee meets on the last Monday of each Month.

The Dead of 1704 Monument: Work should be completed during 2022.

New Business

CPA Applications: Although the DHC is not proposing anything this cycle, we were asked for support by several other groups whose projects involve historical preservation. These include the

renovation of the Old Grammar School, roof and chimney work on the Indian House Museum and conservation of 17th / early 18th century account books in the collection of the PVMA. Letters of support from the DHC for earlier iterations of these same projects are already on file so new ones were not written.

“The Friends of Deerfield, Inc.”: The group has been incorporated as a 501.c.3 organization and is now authorized to raise funds. The group is working on the 350th. celebration. but intends to stay active past 2023 for civic purposes. The group’s website is <friendsofdeerfield.org>

Eastern European Oral Histories: The PVMA has requested funding directly from the DHC to digitize cassette recordings from the ‘90s of Eastern European immigrants with the intent of making such files more readily available. Ben moved, Henrietta seconded, all approved that \$800 be spent for this work.

Montague Battlefield Protection Grant: A presentation was delayed until the next meeting.

Jennifer moved, Bonita seconded and all approved that we adjourn as of 6:30pm