

Draft - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting Of March 28, 2022

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, absent

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

Quorum present

Telecommunications coordinator, Alex Herchenreder

Guests who called in: one, unidentified, no response when ask if they wished to speak

FOD representative: none

Meeting called to order: 6:37 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: No items added

AGENDA

Old Business

- **Approval of Minutes for February 28, 2022 Meeting:** Minutes approved unanimously. Peter T. will post the minutes as approved and the draft minutes for today's meeting.
- **Post Office Cancellation Stamp, Draft of Contest Announcement:** Discussion was tabled.
- **Parade Entry Documents:** Holly L. had submitted draft documents to the town for review last month. Based on the town's review, a few minor edits were requested. Holly will work with Kayce, TA, to update the final documents. It is recommended that a check box be added to the document by which the float or other element proposed for the parade, both physical entry and any individuals, can be photographed by FCAT or other photographers.
- Holly further announced that she is intending to solicit a core group to serve on the parade committee from the Women's Club. The town's 350 anniversary is also the 125th anniversary of the Women's Club. Holly intends to meet with potential committee members on April 27 and should be able to report out soon thereafter. Holly's intent was warmly encouraged. Thank you, Holly, for reaching out.
- **Kick-off Weekend Lighting:** A discussion was tabled. Carolyn N indicated that up-grades to the South Deerfield common has been approved; a lighting event should be well in keeping with such improvements.
- **Arrangements to cover events by FCAT** – Jonathan Boschen will be taking over many of the responsibilities formerly held by Chris Clauson, who recently passed away. Carolyn N. has spoken with Jonathan. He has been provided our current list of 350th events and has confirmed that FCAT is committed to recording these events. A list of additional events should be sent to Jonathan

periodically so that he can add them to FCAT's calendar for coverage. The first event will be in December 2022.

- **Land Acknowledgment proposal:** At last month's meeting, Peter T. informed the committee that Layla Hazen, a local school teacher, would like the Steering Committee to consider taking a stance on a Land Acknowledgment proposal. Subsequently, Peter T. sent the descriptive materials about the Land Acknowledgment proposal to each of the Steering Committee members for review and reflection. While the committee was unanimous that the fact that the Pocumtuck once occupied the land that became Deerfield should be recognized throughout Deerfield's 350th anniversary celebrations, it did not agree that it was in the Committee's mandate to sponsor or become directly involved in pushing forward the Land Acknowledgment proposal. It was suggested that the Selectboard be approached by Layla following the April elections to obtain a hearing on the Land Acknowledgment proposal.

New Business

- **Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Up-Date.** Chris Harris was unavailable to provide any information. Diane M. recommended that the Steering Committee seek a brief written up-date from Chris H as to the current status of FoD's fund-raising successes. The Committee agreed; Holly L. volunteered to contact Chris.
- At last month's meeting, Diane Martin offered to coordinate a number of walk-about for the public to introduce them to various areas of Deerfield and encourage greater interest in the 350th celebration. She has provided a tentative proposal for various walks. Extract:

Finding Deerfield

Purpose: Initiate community involvement post covid with outdoor activities around Deerfield. These are areas we drive by, haven't been to in a while, or want to discover, but would feel more comfortable in a group.

Duration: 1 hour

Proposed Locations and Time Frames:

- Whately Road- walk from Trzcienski Pond to Rt. 91 cul-de-sac; intersperse walk, landscape and local history - spring/ tbd
- Clark Orchard- blossom time
- Meadows (NW)- June/ summer hay season
- East Deerfield train yard- train talk & then walk over Connecticut River on old bridge/ new rail trail.
- Pocumtuck Ridge- hike & enjoy the view
- Sand Gully- visit "drag-racing" site from the early 60's
- Sugarloaf Mountain

At times may ask for volunteers. I would like train buffs, hikers, and "Sand Gully crew" to help fill in the story of Deerfield.

Diane also proposed that she organize a "Bike Rodeo" at the town garage. Both efforts provide a wonderful avenue to advertise 350th events; Diane was encouraged to pursue both endeavors.

Announcements

- Peter T. informed the Committee that his appointment with John Davis, the new President of Historic Deerfield, to discuss the organization's participation in the 350th has been re-scheduled.
- On March 9th, John Nove, Head of Deerfield's Historical Commission, met with the board of directors of the Turners Falls Battlefield Project and invited them to put on a presentation about their exciting discoveries in 2023. Tribal representatives on the board were present and were extended an invitation to participate in the 350th celebrations.
- Kelly C. has officially taken over organizing and posting the meeting agenda, having also done so this month. The Committee expressed its appreciation.

Other business not anticipated – none

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:57.

Next Regular Meeting: Due to a conflict with town voting, the Steering Committee’s next meeting will be held via zoom on **Monday, May 2, 2022** at 6:30 pm. Due to a conflict with Memorial Day, the subsequent meeting will be held via zoom on **May 23, 2022** at 6:30 pm.