

**350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting
On July 25, 2022**

Approved unanimously during Steering Committee meeting on August 29th

Remote Meeting Connection:

Zoom

Peter Thomas, Interim Chair

Roll Call:

Peter Thomas, 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

Quorum present

Telecommunications coordinator: Alex Herchenreder

Guests who called in: none

Meeting called to order: 6:47 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: none

AGENDA

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

June 27th: Approved unanimously

July 5th: Moved to amend the draft by deleting one redundant entry and adding a heading to identify a budget decision. Amendments were approved; the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Parade Working Group Update

Holly L. and Kelly C. reported that “a handful” of people came to the July 6 meeting. Two individuals were willing to join; one has since decided that they could better focus their efforts on another 350th event, while the other will offer assistance when time permits.

Ms. Baronas, who had a role in the Sunderland 250th parade, shared her experience about what tasks Sunderland needed to ensure were done to make the parade successful: staging, water stations, possibility of State grant help, porta-potties, etc. Sunderland has a

large tent for a fee; men put it up and take it down. The Shriners were felt to be an important component of the parade and can be hired for a \$5,000 charity donation.

Kelly has made an important contact who has had considerable parade experience; she anticipates he will assist the working group.

The working group is developing a task calendar that will be used to coordinate their activities.

The working group will meet tomorrow. They are developing a list of potential invitees to the parade.

Access to All Social Media Accounts - Email, Facebook, Web

Kelly C. has access to the Web and Facebook accounts for the 350th, but the e-mail is connected to Jen Remillard's cell phone and access has not been possible. Alex Herchenreder, telecommunications coordinator, offered to contact Jen to seek a solution.

Working History Group Update

Coordination

Peter T, through Barbara Mathews, has provided information to Historic Deerfield and PVMA that will allow us to coordinate scheduling relative to Founders Day and the parade. The Deerfield Historical Commission has been apprised of these schedules as well.

Founders Day

Peter T and Diane M have been developing proposed activities for Founders Day.

Central to discussions have been tolling the bell in the Congregational meeting houses in both South and Old Deerfield 350 times to notify both villages of this momentous occasion. Tolling the bell for significant events has been a tradition in both villages for over a century. It is suggested that both students and their parents be the bell ringers and that a signature book be provided to record the participants.

A brief history of Deerfield's beginnings is proposed to be given in the South Deerfield meeting house during the same occasion for both students and parents.

Story telling about the town might also be held at the Bloody Brook monument on a separate occasion.

Other events are welcome from residents or school personnel.

PVMA Proposal:

Ray Radigan, Curator, proposes a 350th exhibit: "This is basically a repeat photography exhibit, with a twist. It will have three parts. Part 1 is historic photos of buildings and landscapes around Deerfield & South Deerfield. Part 2 is repeat photos showing what those historic views look like today. Part 3 is asking local artists to imagine what those views will look like in the future. We're planning to reach out to Frontier HS to see if

they would be interested in having students collaborate with us on the project – particularly the repeat photography.”

· “We could certainly have it here in Memorial Hall. But given that this is a Deerfield-wide celebration, we are interested in having it at another location in town – or even moving it between locations over the course of the year.”

· In response to PVMA’s proposal, John Nove, Chair of the Historical Commission, responded: “If the exhibit ends up in an unusual place (or even if it doesn’t), you’re welcome to use the display cases in Town Hall to do a ‘teaser’ - a set of photos/artwork showing passers-by what they’ll find more of elsewhere.

An idea for ‘elsewhere’ is the Treehouse Brewery on 5/10 — lots of space (I imagine) and an opportunity to expose the PVMA to a broader audience. There could be special ‘Residents’ Afternoons’. Also, I’m not sure whether the sanctuary of the Town-owned Congregational Church in downtown South Deerfield will be available by then, but that would make a great focal point for lots of 350th activities.

· On a related note, a PVMA presence in the 350th parade in June would be something else to think about. [Holly will contact Tim Neumann, PVMA Director, about this possibility.]

· Also, I spoke with Jeannie [Solensky] about the idea of PVMA and Peter T. (town-held documents) getting together and assembling a variety of documents in the hallway off the library - a kind of paper trail of Deerfield history.

Oral History Program

Peter T spoke at the selectboard meeting on July 13 about the Oral History Program; a follow-up article appeared in the Greenfield Recorder a day or two later. Three individuals with an interest in training as interviewers and loggers contacted Peter T. Currently, 6-8 volunteers have come forward. Notices will be sent out to confirm commitments. There is room for several more volunteers for training. Peter T will be working on finding the best times for volunteers to begin training.

A training room is available at no cost at PVMA during the middle three weeks in August.

Three oral interviews have been completed. Continuing to collect names of candidates to interview.

Peter T has been working on Deerfield’s vital statistics to expand the data already in spreadsheet format that was distributed to the Steering Committee several months ago. A graph showing peaks and declines of several immigrant communities based on children born in Deerfield of immigrant parents was presented to the committee. He is also looking for the names of early families who might have remained residents of Deerfield.

New Business

Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representative: none present

How and where to hold Steering Committee meetings: It was decided that for the foreseeable future Steering Committee meetings would continue to be held using Zoom. Should a situation arise where extended, face-to-face discussions might be required, either a special meeting might be requested or that item will be placed on the agenda for the following meeting, with a change in venue for that meeting also noted.

New Business Not Anticipate: *Per Caroline N, the selectboard will likely request a special town meeting in October to address short-falls in last year's budget and to look ahead at anticipated needs during FY 2023. If there are funding needs for 350th events, that would be the time and mechanism to request such funds. Any needs assessments should be presented to the selectboard by the end of August to make it into the October warrant. This item should be included on the agenda for the Standing Committee's August meeting.*

Meeting adjournment: Motion to adjourn. Voted in the affirmative – unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:34.

Schedules for the next five regular meetings have been set for: August 29, September 26, October 24, November 28 and December 12.