

Draft - 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting On August 29, 2022

Remote Meeting Connection:

Steering Committee meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with unanimous approval of the Steering Committee members. Remote meeting connections for the public were provided in the posted agenda for the meeting. The zoom meeting was broadcast on Frontier Community Access Television (FCAT).

Roll Call:

Peter Thomas, voting member, present
Carolyn Ness, voting member, present
Jay Stryker, voting member, absent
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
FoD representative: none

Meeting called to order: 6:36 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: Agenda items to be added – Update on Founder’s Day, and how to address requests for information, and specifically the inquiry from Erika Jacob’s e-mail of 8/26

AGENDA

Old Business

- **Approval of Minutes for July 25, 2022 Meeting:** Two limited correction were made. Minutes unanimously approved, with corrections. Peter T. will post the minutes as approved and the draft minutes for today’s meeting.
- **Access to Deerfield 350th E-mail Account:** We still do not have access to the 350th e-mail account and cannot answer any inquiries that may be sent to the Steering Committee. Apparently, a second level of protection was added to the account to verify if someone contacting the account from a different computer is a valid user. This has not yet been corrected or updated. Carolyn N. will contact the former administrator to determine how this can be resolved.
- **Parade Entry Documents:**
 - The Parade Working Group met on August 8 and plans to meet on August 30.
 - The biggest issue facing the working group is a lack of volunteers. The Parade Working Group hosted a community meeting at the Town Hall on July 6 to identify needs and to recruit residents to help with this major event, currently planned for June 2023. Only 4-5 volunteers have come forward.
 - After months of work, the parade documents have been finalized. These will be discussed at the up-coming meeting.

- Members of the Steering Committee made several suggestions to attract volunteers:
 - Use the FCAT Bulletin Board to solicit volunteers. An e-mail sent to Jonathan Boschen during the meeting indicated that “he would be “happy to run any advertisement for seeking volunteers if anyone is able to draft something up”.
 - It was suggested that pulling in specific community organizations and requesting that they solicit member and others to participate has been an effective approach in the past. It is a good idea to identify specific tasks that need to be accomplished.
 - Recruiting at the Fall town meeting on October 24 may be effective.
 - Do a presentation at a televised meeting of the Select Board giving a summary of the Parade Groups progress to date, what they hope the event will entail, and the large commitment of volunteerism it will take to accomplish their goals.
- **History Working Group Updates:**
 - The Steering Committee received a grant from the Deerfield Cultural Council to support a program by Jay Stryker about early industry in Deerfield. Jay’s presentation was to be held on June 11, but had to be cancelled due to Jay and his wife contracting covid. Peter T has discussed this with Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Head Librarian; we had intended to reschedule once Jay had sufficiently recovered. After further discussion with Jay, a final decision is still in play. We may need to let the council know soon.
 - Peter T. had initiated discussions with the organizers of Northfield’s 350th Anniversary, which will also occur in 2023. Mary King, from Northfield, joined our last Steering Committee meeting to participate in discussions and to meet committee members. Peter has since agreed to give a public talk during their celebration week about the Squakheag Indian community that lived in the Northfield-Hinsdale area during the of 1600s.
 - Peter T. has completed a research piece that high-lights the presence of large German, Irish and Polish/Ukrainian/Eastern European immigrant communities in Deerfield during the 19th and 20th centuries. This study will be accompanied by a story of the Rotkiewicz family in Deerfield written by Diane Martin. This article, “Seeking New Homes”, will be published in the *Historic Deerfield Magazine* this fall.
 - The Oral History project is underway. Nine volunteers have been trained in the techniques of conducting oral interviews, have witnessed several interviews being conducted, and are currently being trained on the equipment. Our oral history consultants and instructors have completed five formal interviews to date.

New Business

- **350th Additional Funding Needs** – Committee members were not prepared to discuss needs, but need to be prepared to discuss as our next meeting. To date, we have no information from FoD about their funding success and will likely need to request additional funding at the Fall town meeting to be held on October 24. Carolyn N. will put a “place-holder” in the funding request that is being developed.
- **Update from Friends of Deerfield (FoD) Representative** - No direct update was available [FoD just posted that they had received a \$10K donation and other donations are posted on their web page.] Peter T. agreed to contact FoD to request that a representative attend our future meetings to facilitate coordination of finances.
- **Media Requests** – Several recent e-mails to various members of the Steering Committee have requested information about plans for the 350th or have suggested to specific programming. These requests, as well as an increasing number of such requests that are expected in the future, highlighted the need for the Steering Committee to be able to coordinate responses to such inquiries. This is typically the role of

a public information officer. Diane Martin and Kelly Charest offered to take on this responsibility.
Their offer was eagerly welcomed.

- **Need to select a new October meeting date:** The date selected earlier conflicts with Town Meeting on the same day, which will tie up the Zoom accounts. **Monday, October 17th, at 6:30 via Zoom** was selected, as all members' schedules currently appear open.
- **Pictorial Postmark** – No one knew of any entries that have been submitted. However, with no access to our e-mail account, we have no way of checking. Kelly C. will contact the school departments to check on the status of any entries.
- **Proposed 350th Website Updates** – Kelly C., acting as the new Web site administrator, requested approval make modifications, specifically so that it is recognized as a legitimate site by Google, as well as make it more active. She was authorized to make whatever changes she felt necessary.

- **New Business Not Anticipated** –
 - Two e-mails had arrived requesting information about 350th programming. Peter T. will reply to both, as they are related to historic topics with which he is familiar.
 - One member reported that FoD had posted a notice advertising that attire for the jubilee dinner and dance would be “informal black and white”. No one could quite decipher the meaning, as “informal” typically means in “shirt and slacks”, while “black and white” implies coat/suit and tie. No committee action was proposed.
 - Diane M. and Peter T. are currently working on a program for Founder’s Day, May 7, 2023. Two types of activities to mark the occasion of our 350th birthday are anticipated so far:
 - Peter T. will present a story to the public about the founding of Deerfield.
 - We propose to use a traditional bell ringing – a form of celebration that goes back at least 125 years by records left on the belfry walls of the former Second Parish Congregational Meetinghouse in South Deerfield, which the town currently owns, and at the First Parish Congregational Church in Old Deerfield. The idea is to involve both teachers and parents in the ringing and have a signature book to record their participation.
 - Programming can hopefully be extended into the school systems.
 - It is proposed that the sanctuary and bell tower in the old meeting house be the site of the talk and bell ring in South Deerfield. Carolyn Ness expressed her belief that using the church will be possible. She will bring this up at a future Selectboard meeting.

Meeting adjournment: Motion to adjourn. Voted in the affirmative – unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Schedules for the next four regular meetings have been set for: September 26, **October 17**, November 28 and December 12.