



Minutes of the Historical Commission Deerfield, MA.

Town Offices
October 20, 2009

Members present: Henrietta Kocot, Chair; Edie Lipp, Clerk; Pat Potter
Visitor: Susan Brandts

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chair, Henrietta Kocot. Clerk, Minutes of the Historical Commission meeting of September 15, 2009 were reviewed and approved by consensus.

2. Old business:

- The Historical Commission accepted with appreciation a drawing donated by Helen Petrovic of a design once offered for town offices in the building now occupied by the Berkshire Brewery.
- Edie Lipp reported that Marti Barrett at Frontier Regional School knows we have had to delay any projects in collaboration with students until spring 2010. Edie will check on the status of woodworking at the high school, about the oral history project, and about students for a spring cleaning project at Sugarloaf Cemetery.
- Sue Brandts volunteered to help on spring Sugarloaf Cemetery cleaning days.

3. New Business

- We looked at a large 1981-1986 scrapbook of Deerfield photos and fliers that was given to the Commission by the Assessor's Office. Pat Potter will keep the scrapbook until we find appropriate storage. At some point materials in the scrapbook should be scanned to make digital copies. It was agreed we should ask if other citizens have town photographs we can scan.
- Pat Potter mentioned that Jane Trigere said that the small building adjacent to the Sugarloaf Cemetery is coming up for sale for \$150,000. Jane believes the owner (Charsky) would alternatively be interested in renting just the current lawyer's office space for \$350 a month. Everyone agreed the building would be a good site for the Historical Commission to establish a permanent exhibit. It is a convenient in-town location that could be part of a walking tour of South Deerfield. Henrietta believes the building was moved to the current location from elsewhere in town and that it used to be a schoolhouse. In its current location it was a fish store and then Parkers' Antiques. Now

it houses a lawyer's office and a computer business. Though everyone agreed the location is good, it seems unlikely that the town would have funds for purchase or rental of the building; interior work, upkeep, and insurance on the space would also be expenses. One suggestion was for the town to offer an abatement of property taxes in exchange for some or part of the rent asked. Edie said the Historical Commission must do more research before suggesting such a large investment by the town. Henrietta suggested a privately-funded Deerfield Historical Society. It could focus on town history, photos, and artifacts not already covered by the work of Historic Deerfield and the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.

- Edie pointed out that CPC Pre-Applications are due on Nov. 5th, before our next Historical Commission meeting, so we will meet in special session next Tuesday 10-27 to discuss the CPC Applications for two projects: (1) \$10,000 for repair and cleaning of the Sugarloaf Street Cemetery (2) \$20,000 for research and materials leading to a Walking Tour of South Deerfield Central Village area. Pat will work on details of (1) and Edie will work on details of (2).
- Henrietta Kocot raised the issue of publicizing the work of the Historical Commission. We brainstormed possibilities: Community TV posting, speaking at venues such as the Senior Center, the Women's Club, the Lion's Club, the Polish Club. We agreed first to put together a flier to post in public locations such as the post office, the senior center, the fire house, the library. The poster will include a photo of an historic place in South Deerfield and information about the Historical Commission's meeting times and aim to preserve local history and historic sites. The poster will include an invitation for citizens to attend Historic Commission meetings and to submit photos of the town to be donated or scanned.

4. Assignments

- Henrietta: (1) Call Carolyn Ness to discuss the Charsky building and funding (2) Work on flier for the Historical Commission (3) Show poster to Bernie Kubiak for input.
- Edie: (1) Study what's necessary for CPC Application related to Walking Tour project (2) Email Principal Marti Barrett at **Frontier Regional School** about status of woodworking at high school (3) Ask Marti Barrett about student availability for a Sugarloaf Street Cemetery cleaning project in the spring (4) Post next week's special 10-27 meeting with Kayce Warren (5) Ask Kayce Warren about postage, paper, and envelopes for a project like fliers to home owners in Center Village project.
- Pat: (1) Work with Jane Trigere to define what's necessary for CPC Application related to Sugarloaf Cemetery project (2) Continue to make materials-needed list for the springtime Sugarloaf Cemetery cleaning project and then see Bernie Kubiak and Hap Eaton to find out what the town can provide

5. At 7:45 P.M. Edie made a motion and Pat seconded it that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by consensus. The next meeting of the Historical Commission will be October 27, 2009 in Room 130 of the Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Lipp, Clerk
Deerfield Historical Commission