



Minutes of the Historical Commission Deerfield, MA.

**Town Offices
December 8, 2009**

**Members present: Henrietta Kocot, Chair; Edie Lipp, Clerk; Pat Potter, Jane Trigère
Guest: Mary Lou Fortier**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M. by Chair, Henrietta Kocot. Minutes of the November 23rd meeting were approved by consensus. Pat Potter introduced guest Mary Lou Fortier.

2. Old Business

- Edie reported that the Historical Commission's CPA Application for the Sugarloaf Street Cemetery Restoration Project was submitted to the CPC on time, so we await feedback.
- Pat reported that Hap Eaton OKed doing brush removal at the cemetery, including removal of poison ivy. He's just waiting for a frost because the ground is too wet now.
- Edie showed the completed Deerfield Historical Commission posters. Everyone agreed they look wonderful. Edie asked that members express thanks to Bernie Kubiak and Kayce Warren for their help in printing the posters.
- Everyone took posters to distribute around town: town hall, Senior Center, churches (Brick Church in Deerfield, South Deerfield Congregational Church, Holy Name of Jesus Church all approved), Polish Club, etc. The aim of the posters is to encourage town residents' interest in the work of the Historical Commission and give them contact information.
- Edie reported that on December 2, 2009 she conducted a trial Oral History Project interview with former HC member, Helen Petrovic. She showed the draft copy of the interview which must still be edited and approved by Helen Petrovic.
- Someone mentioned that George Melnik's daughter Carol had interviewed a lot of the "old timers" in town. We agreed that the HC should try to find out what happened to those interviews.
- We discussed the merits of audio vs. video recordings for the Oral History Project, and the issue of transcribing (10 hours of transcribing for one hour of recording). Edie suggested that transcribed versions are important for possible publications. Jane Trigère has had experience with oral history collection. She said researchers often prefer audio or video to written copy. She said that putting interviews on DVDs allows listeners to go to

a particular section of the interview easily; indexing is crucial. Jane also suggested doing pre-interviews, a time when the interview and the subject can meet and the interviewer can ask preliminary questions that will help in creating final interview questions. Jane also stated the importance of the interviewer noting the setting of the interview and whether the subject has any accent. Finally, Jane suggested that an interviewer could scan photos and other documents a subject might offer.

3. New Business

- Jane Trigere showed HC members postcards which she is donating to the Commission. They could be used in future posters. The HC is grateful for the gift.
- Mary Lou Fortier was invited to show materials she brought to this HC meeting. She showed photos, articles, pamphlets she is donating to the HC in honor of her late husband, Gerald Fortier. Mr. Fortier was greatly interested in Deerfield history. The HC expressed thanks for the donation.

4. Assignments

- Everyone – put up posters.
- Jane – be prepared to show HC materials on Oral History projects, including legal release documents
- Edie – do whatever follow-up needed for the CPA Application

5. At 8:00 P.M. Edie made a motion and Henrietta seconded it that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by consensus. The Historical Commission will meet next on January 12, 2010 at 6:30 in the main meeting room of the Town Offices. Our guest for that meeting will be Michele Barker of Preserve Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Lipp, Clerk
Deerfield Historical Commission