

approved 4/12/10

Minutes of DHC Meeting (with corrections)
March 9, 2010

Members present: Jane Trigere, Marilyn McArthur, Andrea Krawczyk

Absent: Henrietta Kocot, Chair, Pat Potter

Guests: Karen Herold, chair of the Conservation Preservation Committee (CPC), Don Moro, guest.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Jane Trigere in the absence of the Chair, Henrietta Kocot. It was noted that Andrea Krawczyk has accepted the position as clerk for the Commission and Marilyn McArthur will be the new CPC representative from the DHC. It was also decided that the acceptance vote on the February meeting minutes would be held in abeyance until the next meeting in April. The meeting was videotaped because the town did not know that the clerk position was filled.

2. CEMETERY PRESERVATION. There are currently 3 estimates for the restoration of the Sugarloaf Cemetery. It was noted that some of the town cemeteries have trusts, but the Sugarloaf Cemetery does not. The procedure for the bids was discussed. The DHC will review the bids and make a recommendation which will be forwarded through the CPC to the Town Selectboard. Karen Harold stated that she will send the state procurement law to the commission members so they could become more familiar with the process.

Jane consulted with Fred Oakley, the person who taught her gravestone cleaning and repair techniques, about the individuals or companies that submitted estimates. He noted that Kai Nalenz of the Gravestone Services of New England has all the equipment to do the work, while TaMara Conde would have to hire some workers and rent equipment to do the work. The third company was very vague and they noted that they did not have the time to, "physically inspect the conditions of the listed markers." Additionally, Gravestone Services of New England will present a one-day training on restoration for volunteers at \$75 per person.

Karen Herold, upon request, explained and provided information to the Commission. She stated that the Commission should put an addendum in the recommendation to include other cemeteries in Deerfield. She also recommended that the amount be changed because under the Massachusetts law any bids under \$20,000 do not have to be competed for and the Town could make a selection without the required 3 minimum bids. On the assumption that this was accurate information, we decided to change our request to \$20,000

ADDENDUM: In discussion with the Town Manager in the days following this meeting we found out that this information was inaccurate. So the members of the commission conferred with each other individually and agreed to let our original request stand. An April 1, 2010 meeting was convened in part to officially approve this amended position. The decision was affirmed.

Karen also reminded us that the request for an administrative fee needed to be clarified and to make sure that we express that other cemeteries would be included in future plans.

3. GRANTS. There was some discussion on getting other grants but we tabled the topic for a future meeting because we felt that we had to complete the Cemetery project and prepare for the annual town meeting at the end of April.

4. PRESERVATION PLAN. Marilyn McArthur handed out a complete copy of the Preservation Plan for Deerfield which was completed in 1990. She led the members through portions of the plan as the Commission discussed the need to have a strategy in accordance with the DHC goals. As a result, a discussion ensued about the need for the community to become actively involved with the historical preservation of Deerfield. Some of the suggestions were to have historic home gatherings, to do a history of tobacco sheds which would involve doing an inventory perhaps involving area students, and how the Commission could use the new town web site to engage Deerfield residents in active online participation. The site could be designed to allow for online information gathering. This was something that could include student and intern participation as well.

5. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M. The next meeting is April 13, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted
Andrea Krawczyk, Clerk Deerfield Historical Commission

Corrections and additions compiled by the entire committee on April 1, 2010
and typed up by Jane Trigere