

Deerfield Historical Commission

Minutes

December 13, 2010

Present: Henrietta Kocot, Pat Potter, Jane Trigère, Marilyn McArthur, Pam Hodgkins

Meeting began at 6:40 pm. Approved the minutes of November 9.

Sugarloaf Cemetery Project

Pam made a courtesy call to Peter Spang, expressing the commission's interest in restoring the Albany Road cemetery (as well as others). We understand there is an urgent need as far as that historic cemetery is concerned. Pam advised him the first step would be an assessment of the cemetery's condition, and that at any time any party or coalition may submit a CPC application. Spang suggested that Pam contact Judy Lawrence. In the past, Tim Neumann and Suzanne Flynt of PVMA have talked about forming a committee around this topic.

Marilyn reported on the presentation of Stuart Saginor from the CPC. Deerfield is right on track for how to form and manage a local CPC. Marilyn requested and has received from Stuart digital copies of short-form Community Preservation plans from other municipalities – making a Deerfield plan should be the CPC committee's next step. Marilyn will bring the reports and historical maps showing old cemeteries to the January meeting.

Pat talked to Hap, and brought a list of Deerfield's cemeteries, which we looked at. We will make a copy available for the file.

We need to search for historical photos of town cemeteries, particularly to see what original fences looked like. Pam will ask Judy Lawrence if there are such photos in the Allen Sisters' collection. Sheila at PVMA could not help Pat find archival photos, unfortunately

Jane reported on Kai (successful bidder on Sugarloaf St cemetery project). Kai is on the job since Nov 24. He did 2 days work on site here. Kai brought Jane a sample of an assessment page (the "condition report". Jane stressed it should be readable.

For the record: Win Arms is the new trustee of Laurel Cemetery (private)

Jane asked Bernie about CPC process and the business of a 2-stage process of cemetery restoration (assessment and work). Bernie recommends the commission apply for a lump sum for both, to be drawn on as needed.

Marilyn reported that the CPC is reorganizing and will probably not have a December meeting.

Administrative

Jane asked Bernie about the budget (2K). From \$2,000., \$400. is for the lawyer, leaving \$1600. We reviewed the 2010 DHC budget that Edie prepared, and decided to meet after Christmas to work on the 2011 budget. Meeting date: Tuesday December 28, 6 pm.

Bernie also says that the difference between what the town voted for the cemetery project (30K) and the present contract (22K) remains available for the commission to spend if necessary for the current cemetery restoration. That is, we have the right to amend and renegotiate the contract.

An honorarium can be paid to Kai for making a presentation to the selectman. Also Kai could do a training. The same company can do an assessment and then do the work as well.

We chose Pam our unofficial “treasurer.” Pam will work on the budget. We agree to join the Graveyard Studies Association for \$50.—unless Kaycee has a membership for the town. We will send delegations to Preservation Massachusetts events.

Other

Bernie suggests the commission could co-sponsor an event for the town with Tilton Library before the next town meeting.

Pat to ask Sarah Woodbury what resources they have at Tilton – we could do something for the public about cemeteries. We wonder what books Tilton has on Deerfield history and architecture.

We must prepare an annual report for town meeting. Henrietta will check when the text is due. To our January meeting, we should all bring copies of final minutes of 2010, agendas also, to help write the report.

Pam to research and report on road signage: laws, customs, cost of village markers

Bernie appreciates Jane’s idea of interactive website and will check with town webmaster regarding limitations of what can go on the town website

Next monthly meeting: January 11.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McArthur