

Deerfield Historical Commission

Minutes

January 25, 2011

Agenda

Open and review mail

Review and accept minutes of Jan. 11

Begin work on CPC application

Meeting began 6:15 pm. Present: Henrietta Kocot, Jane Trigère, Marilyn McArthur,
Absent: Pat Potter, Pam Hodgkins. Guest: Edie Lipp

In the mail: a letter from Stan Rosenberg about the upcoming 2011 municipal conference
Sat. April 9

Minutes of Jan. 11 reviewed and accepted as amended.

CPC application Working title: Deerfield Graveyard and Monument Project. There is much to do before March 3, when the application is due. Jane and Edie met with Bernie to discuss the 2011 project.

We will need to arrive at a clear articulation for the public of our approach, which will involve concurrent work at numerous sites in town. Each site will go through the same phases of assessment and repair and so forth, just not at the same time.

We will need to offer the public some explanation of our choice of priorities, while nevertheless communicating that we mean to attend eventually to the restoration needs of all the town-owned cemeteries. Our main criteria so far: 1) the interest and active engagement of a cemetery neighbor who can take on some portion of the volunteer work involved in preparing the application and seeing a project through. (the example being Jane and the Sugarloaf Street cemetery). This first criterion explains our position on Old Albany Road burial ground in Old Deerfield: when neighbors of the burial ground step forward to work on a proposal for its restoration – either Historic Deerfield, Deerfield Academy, PVMA, private individuals, or some combination thereof, lending their time and resources to the effort -- then there is no reason that a proposal cannot move forward. We probably should explain at town meeting how this would work (for any neighborhood cemetery): proposed work as part of the commission's annual application; [or a separate, free-standing application is possible also, which would merely require the commission's approval of its historic value]. Our point to underscore is that the commission itself is made up of volunteers with limited resources, and must rely on interested, involved citizens.

We agree that the 2011 application will include the following:

1. Preliminary professional survey of all town cemeteries, for the purpose of establishing priorities
2. Assessment of Bloody Brook monument, including the Lathrop Stone
3. Restoration of Bloody Brook monument, including the Lathrop Stone, to include cleaning and repair as necessary
4. Assessment of 2 West Deerfield cemeteries: the small "Wisdom" cemetery by Clarkdale Orchard, at the intersection of Upper Road and Albany Road, and the "West Deerfield" cemetery on Upper Road at the intersection with Christian Drive.
5. First stage restoration work at the 2 West Deerfield cemeteries name in #2.
6. Administrative costs

We agree to continue to cultivate neighbors of cemeteries, searching for helpful partners; also to get endorsements and/or statements of support from abutters.

Meeting adjourned 7 pm.