

Deerfield Historical Commission

Draft Minutes

June 14, 2011

Meeting began 5:45 pm. Present: Pat Potter, Jane Trigère, Marilyn McArthur.
Absent: Pam Hodgkins, Henrietta Kocot.

Minutes of April 4 reviewed and accepted

Correspondence

Membership in Gravestone Studies Association arrived, with materials to peruse.

We received copies of new (2009) documentation for the National Registry of Historic Places for the Old Deerfield Historic District, dendrochronology reports for numerous Historic Deerfield houses. These will be added to the files. We agreed that historic registry documentation belongs in the commission's files in town hall. We agreed to invite Michele Barker (circuit rider for Preservation Massachusetts) to a meeting to advise us about registering the Bloody Brook monument, and about the feasibility and implications of a South Deerfield historic district.

Pat paid \$45. for our thank-you bouquet to Edi Lipp. It will not be reimbursed. At the next meeting, we can pitch in to reimburse Pat (\$9.each).

We noted that correspondence tends to involve bills and payments. We agreed that in order to submit bills properly and in general keep track of the budget, now we need a monthly treasury report. If the treasurer needs to be absent, an email will suffice and be added to the minutes.

CPC Cemetery Project

Jane, Kai, and Bernie met to arrange the billing method and timetable for Kai's work. Upon completion of the final 2010-11 report for Sugarloaf St. cemetery, Kai will get his final payment and his bond back. The final report will include written instructions for the new highway superintendent regarding cemetery landscape care, and recommendations for pruning and removal of trees. In continuation work, Kai will 1) locate all stray footstones and place them accordingly; 2) plant remaining stray footstones in a setting at the back of the cemetery; 3) clean and repair 30 "Category 3" stones;¹ 4) price and submit a bill for work that exceeded the expected scope of the 2010 project (e.g., repair of the broken neck (pedestal) of a globe). Kai will report continuation work in an addendum to the aforementioned final report for 2010-11.

¹ Category 1: Stones dangerous to others, and/or especially significant historically or stylistically. Category 2: Stones dangerous to themselves (e.g., splitting slate). Category 3: Others.

Bills to be submitted after July 1 (Yr 2 work): needs assessment of 2 West Deerfield cemeteries; Bloody Brook monument/ Captain Lathrop stone needs assessment; survey report of all town-owned cemeteries, with recommendations and timetable of work.

From Sugarloaf St. cemetery there are 6 "1775" flag markers of graves of revolutionary war veterans. What price to clean and repair? We will investigate and establish where the markers belong. Doug Tierney had offered to help with this.

Marilyn reported on the needs assessment survey-tour of all town-owned cemeteries with Kai. Kai will make a report with recommendations. There are "Category 1" stones (old, rare, and endangered) all around town, notably in Old Deerfield (Albany Rd Burial Ground), East Deerfield, Savage's, Hawks and Howes. These issues arose: 1) access through private property and/or over rough terrain for restoration equipment 2) a town-owned cemetery (Howes) on the house lot of a new home. 3) need to proceed to acquire deed for Captain Lathrop stone; need to investigate historic marker status for Bloody Brook 4) Still to be surveyed: military graves/markers on Pine Hill; "lost" cemetery off River Road; historic markers off Stillwater Rd

We note with pleasure that Kai reports great satisfaction in the work he has done in Sugarloaf Street cemetery. Kai has enjoyed the visits of many passers-by, whom he calls the friendliest he has ever encountered (including one town committee person who confessed initial opposition to the CPA tax, and now approval). We are pleased with the positive response of the citizens of Deerfield to this project. Kai was on friendly terms as well with the town public works crew, whom he instructed in methods of safe cemetery weed-whacking.

We discussed, inconclusively, the idea of Kai leading a gravestone cleaning workshop. What to charge? How many participants? When would it be? Presently the idea is that we would pay Kai, and charge a modest fee (\$10.) to attend.

Deferred: a fence for Sugarloaf Street cemetery; a fence to protect the Captain Lathrop stone; further landscaping at Sugarloaf St.

Other

The April minutes suggested that our next meeting would be April 14 to coincide with the CPA Public Hearing of 2011 projects. Some were in attendance, but we did not hold a commission meeting. The commission did not call a meeting for May.

When the commission meets, there is always a clerk present to take notes. Marilyn McArthur is clerk; should she be absent, the commission will designate a different clerk for the evening. We wish to communicate our internal clerking capacity to clerk our meetings to the town administrator, Pat Kroll, and Kevin Murphy (FCAT).

We agreed to invite Jack Cavacco to a meeting to discuss the idea of a poster of the Bloody Brook monument restoration.

We still need to recruit new members for the commission.

11/16/2011

We agreed to investigate the possibility of restoring a decayed hiking trail by the Conway border (the Mohican trail).

Jane will investigate getting a locked bookcase for the meeting room.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: Second Tuesday of July is July 12. Meeting time is 5:30 pm. Please let us know if vacation interferes and we should reschedule the meeting.