

Deerfield Historical Commission

December 10, 2012 Minutes

Chairman: Henrietta Kocot

Cemetery Restoration sub-committee head: Jane Trigère

Clerk: Kenneth Schoen

Historic Inventory sub-committee head: Marilyn McArthur

Betty Hollingsworth

Scenic Byways Liaison: John Nove

Representative to the Community Preservation Committee: Marilyn McArthur

Current Term Dates

Henrietta Kocot 7/1/12 – 6/30/13

Marilyn McArthur 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

Betty Hollingsworth 7/1/12 – 6/30/14

Kenneth Schoen 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

John Nove 7/1/12 – 6/30/14

Jane Trigère 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

Present:

Betty Hollingsworth, Henrietta Kocot, Marilyn McArthur, John Nove, Ken Schoen, and Jane Trigère

Guests: Bud Driver, Charlene Galenski and Samantha Valone (student)

Agenda

Review November minutes

Correspondence

Old Business

John - Info on cost of signage from other Towns

Marilyn - update on inventory project

Jane - update on cemeteries and Old Grammar school, Sugarloaf St Cemetery Fence

New Business

Review Old Minutes

The minutes of November 5, 2012 were approved as amended. A motion was made by Henrietta and seconded by Betty and carried unanimously.

Correspondence from:

Commonwealth Museum

Mass. Historical Preservation Society Award Nominations

Gravestone Studies Association Newsletter

Bill for cabinets from Vocational Educational Associates

Old Business

John:

- Scenic Byways meeting was postponed.
- John has looked for samples of interpretive signage in other town cemeteries but has found none. He will call the Gravestone Studies Assn. and also Michelle Barker from Mass. Preservation.
- Old historic marker on Route 10. He reports that it is nine months since he has tried to have the remaining sign marker removed. Mass. DOT took over jurisdiction. He has gotten no response from his queries to Mass DOT and DPW. Henrietta will follow up with Mass. DOT.

Marilyn:

- South Deerfield Inventory Project is proceeding well and has a phone now (665-1401). Shirley Majewski is there and available to the public on Tuesdays (9-12 am).
- The CPC met on December 6th. There will be a public meeting on February 7th at 7 p.m. and the CPC will encourage the public to come to discuss ideas for potential projects. The

applications are due on March 1st. The CPC will review the applications on March 7th. There will be a public informational meeting on April 4th when the proposals will be presented. The annual town meeting takes place on April 22nd.

Jane:

- We are curiously delayed in completing a contract for the assessment of the old Grammar School building. This has been lingering since the summer. The committee instructed Henrietta to follow up on this.
- She will bring fence design proposals for Sugarloaf St. Cemetery to next month's meeting. There was discussion about the stone pillars and would the design incorporate them? They are sandstone and have been repointed in the past with concrete mortar. The reason they are so worn and falling apart is, according to Kai Nalenz, that the mortar is harder than the sandstone and has destroyed it. The oldest photo we have of this fence shows one that resembles the one at Lee Road and Clarkdale. We will need to consider whether the entrance to the cemetery will be open or will have a gate.
- The work on the cemeteries is behind schedule for a variety of unfortunate reasons.
- Students at the University of Mass. Public History Program will be sending us a report of their study of the Sugarloaf Street cemetery with an updated inventory and map.
- Word upgrade of the DHC computer. Jane will ask Pat Kroll to install an upgrade. Betty made a motion to purchase the upgrade; Henrietta seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

New Business

Introducing our Guests

Charlene Galenski reported on growing up in South Deerfield. She is particularly interested in the history of agriculture in the region. She remembers the tobacco, onion, potato and cucumber crops. The Produce Bank downtown was the locus of finance. She described the transition of farm ownership into the families of the immigrants.

Bud Driver discussed his past involvement in the DHC and its formation. He is particularly interested in the artifacts dug up and discovered in South Deerfield. He would like to see some accountability when artifacts are removed and laments the fact that most have been removed from the town. He brought some documents concerning Historical Commissions, local archeology, Indian artifacts, etc. and Ken will make copies for the committee to read for further discussion.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 14, 2012 at 5:30pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Henrietta and seconded by John. Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Schoen, clerk