

Deerfield Historical Commission

August 14, 2012 Minutes

Chairman: Henrietta Kocot

Clerk: Kenneth Schoen

Bookkeeper: Betty Hollingsworth

Representative to the Community Preservation Committee: Marilyn McArthur

Cemetery Restoration sub-committee head: Jane Trigère

Historic Inventory sub-committee head: Marilyn McArthur

Scenic Byways Liaison: John Nove

Current Term Dates

Henrietta Kocot 7/1/12 – 6/30/13

Betty Hollingsworth 7/1/12 – 6/30/14

John Nove 7/1/12 – 6/30/14

Marilyn McArthur 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

Kenneth Schoen 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

Jane Trigère 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

Present:

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

Absent: John Nove. **Guest:** Shirley Majewski.

Agenda

Greet Guests: Select board and CPC Committee & introduce Shirley Majewski - Project Researcher

Review and accept minutes of July meeting

Correspondence

Old Business

1. *Cemetery projects: approve proposal from Gravestone Services of New England; Architects' Grammar School assessment proposals and choice of Bill Devlin; and future RFP and more.*
2. *Historic Inventory progress*
3. *bookcases order approved from VEA (Valley Educational Associates in Deerfield)*

Review Old Minutes

The minutes of July 17, 2012 were approved as amended.

Correspondence

Henrietta has signed off on the consultation form for project-accessibility for the Center for the Arts Building at Deerfield Academy.

Old Business

1. Old Grammar School Assessment

Of the three architects we reached out to, Bill Devlin and Tom Douglas sent in proposals. Bill Devlin was chosen to do the assessment of the old Grammar School (Senior Center). His bid was for \$9,800 all inclusive. The decision was made by Jane in consultation with Bernie Kubiak (town manager) and Dick Calisewski (building Inspector). Devlin has been notified and as soon as he receives a contract from Bernie he will begin.

2. RFP 2012 West Deerfield Cemeteries

Gravestone Services of New England (Kai Nalenz) presented the only proposal for the West Deerfield cemeteries RFP. We unanimously approved GSNE for the work. His proposal came in at \$43,500, well below the CPC funding. Jane reminded us that he had and has again included doing teaching and demos as part of his fee. We will contact Deerfield Academy, Frontier Regional and its National Honor Society to participate.

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3. Historic Inventory

Marilyn reported that she and Shirley have gotten a great start. The office is all set up and well-equipped. The town supplied surplus electronic equipment (desktop computer and printer). They will schedule an open-house for the public at some later date. We perused the notebook that Shirley has started of buildings in the Center Village of South Deerfield.

Marilyn spoke about attending the Sheldon Family Assoc. meeting in Northampton. There were some 40 descendants. She stressed the importance of locating other Family Assoc. to get them involved in funding the gravestones of their ancestors, the creation of interpretive signage, and fence repairs. David Bosse, the librarian at PVMA has some material concerning Family Associations. She suggested we might get a grant for researching this. Some discussion ensued about where monies collected would go to. We will need to ask the Town bookkeeper about this.

4. Public History involvement

Jane read an email from David Glassberg of UMass Public History Dept. He is eager to have his students work on cemetery inventories and mapping. Jane will arrange this with him. There is no cost to Deerfield. Betty reminded us that Brookside Cemetery which is privately owned has a software program for their cemetery inventory. Jane will contact Shirley Patterson and/or Loretta Gass.

Marilyn will pursue Max Page, prof of architecture in the same dept. to get a student on-board to work with Shirley in the fall.

New Business

1. DA & Old Albany Rd Cemetery

Jane intends to visit Deerfield Academy to further discuss their involvement in the Old Albany Road Cemetery restoration. The assessment is part of the 2013 RFP and hopefully the actual work will be for the 2014 RFP if we get the funds.

And this reminds us that the related CPC application is due in February 2013
to be awarded spring 2013 and
approved by the town in April 2013 and
distributed after July 1st in fiscal 2014.
Confusing!

2. HUD Grant

Town has received a HUD grant for Street Scape Livability proposals. As chair of DHC Henrietta attended and will be reporting back to us regularly. This project is not part of DHC.

3. Cemetery Trees & hedges

Jane suggested that we cut back the hedges at the Baptist Cemetery in West Deerfield. After the restoration of the stones the cemetery would be more visible and vandalism would be discouraged. Jane will speak to Shawn (Highway Dept) to see if they can take care of that.

To get a sense of what the costs involved, Jane got of a quote from Jim's Tree Service of Greenfield to remove one of the large Maples in the Sugarloaf St. Cemetery and trim the other. For \$3,000 they would be bringing in very large equipment; they would chip the brush and take out the wood. It is a very delicate job given the amount of gravestones surrounding the trees. Jim has been working in the Laurel Hill Cemetery and comes highly recommended. Kai Nalenz of GSNE indicated last year that one Maple was on its way out. Our Highway Dept people are regularly dealing with large fallen branches from this tree.

4. Cemetery signage

Jane introduced the topic of signage for all the cemeteries. To be discussed and decided is whether we want way-finding signs and/or interpretive signs. We will ask John Nove when he returns about this since he worked as an interpreter in a State facility. Jay Jewett (a Jewett & Allis descendant) who lives in Florida has expressed interest a sign for the Sugarloaf St. Cemetery. We explored the idea of reaching out to all the Family Associations to help pay for this. We also discussed whether to put up signs all at once or one by one. This is a project to research and get started.

5. Bookcases/cabinets

Henrietta reported that VEA (Valley Educational Associates) came to take measurements and submitted their quote to build a bookcase with glass and wood doors. Regular \$320 and tempered glass \$400. We ordered two bookcases. (Which glass? Tempered?) We have currently \$1804.73 in our account. VEA is a Deerfield-based non-profit organization that provides work and training for people with disabilities.

The next meeting will be September 11, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Ken Schoen, clerk