

# Deerfield Historical Commission

# February 4, 2013 Minutes

Chairman: Henrietta Kocot

Cemetery Restoration sub-committee head: Jane Trigère

Clerk: Kenneth Schoen

Betty Hollingsworth

Scenic Byways Liaison: John Nove

Representative to the Community Preservation Committee: none

## Current Term Dates

Henrietta Kocot 7/1/12 – 6/30/13

Kenneth Schoen 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

Betty Hollingsworth 7/1/12 – 6/30/14

Jane Trigère 7/1/12 – 6/30/15

John Nove 7/1/12 – 6/30/14

## Present:

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

Guests: Bud Driver and Todd Kmetz and Matthew Jakutowicz

## Agenda

### Review old Minutes

Correspondence

Old Business

Jane - Updates on cemeteries and Old Grammar School,

Sugarloaf St. Cemetery Fence, RFP, Annual Report

Bud - any info you may have

Henrietta - info on inventory project (not done!)

New Business

New applications for DHC membership

Letter of thanks to Marilyn

Discuss tasks of each member

Meeting began at 5:40pm

## Review Old Minutes

The minutes of January 14, 2013 were approved as amended. A motion was made by John and seconded by Ken and carried unanimously. Betty raised a correction to old minutes re the date of the dedication of the Veterans' Monument erected by the Greenfield Monument Company on the Village Common. The correct date was Nov. 11, 1992.

## Correspondence

Marilyn has sent a letter resigning from the Commission. We accepted Marilyn's resignation with regrets.

Town treasurer's report received: we have \$1975 in our budget and have spent \$854. We also received the CPA Budget Report:

71,025 Cemetery work (2012) not spent (West Deerfield)

24,000 Cemetery work (2013) not spent

(Assessment of Old Albany Rd Cem. & 1-5 stones in remaining cemeteries)

10,000 Old Grammar School (2013) not spent

10,000 Historic Inventory Documentation (2013) not spent; 10,000 spent.

Shirley Majewski submitted her quarterly report for the Inventory Project for October-December 2012.

**Old Business****Sugarloaf St. Cemetery Fence**

Jane reports: The CPC application for funds can be found on that Committee's page on the Deerfield Town web site. Jane showed pictures she will submit. She will include that we are investigating and searching for the right fence. L & L Fence in Whately, Hastie Fence in Hadley and Sonam Lama in S. Deerfield will give estimates.

A guest asked why we don't restore the masonry corners and the supporting posts. It was explained that the stone pillars were repaired but the cement mortar was harder than the stone and destroyed it. The concrete added to the top is also disintegrating.

Hastie did the cast aluminum fence at Brookside Cemetery. It seems often to need repairs; Hastie says it's due to vandalism and accidents. They said we can reproduce what we have now which is just painted steel pipes with a newer powder-covered product. Todd alerted that when it gets chipped, it will deteriorate. It will rot inside from moisture and needs holes drilled. A problem. He recommended we stay away from this product.

Braeburn Road has a fence with poured concrete pillars similar to what may have been at Sugarloaf Cemetery. Other suggestions were: black locust for posts set in dirt; Bud suggested posts with wooden nails, granite posts similar to Clarkdale and Lee Road. He suggested white oak could be coated and that we could make our own posts. Todd will look into composite materials.

PVMA and Old Albany Road Cemetery have stone posts with squared wood split rails. There would be holes in the pillars for future gates. Guest suggestion: Hastie could do the wood and Sonam the stone posts.

DPW has said that they will clear the old stones and pipes. As part of the proposal the planting of hydrangeas in the back of the cemetery will be included.

Jane read further from her proposal. Ken suggested Jane finish and submit the proposal. Henrietta seconded and the motion was unanimously carried. There will be a CPC information meeting on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm where Jane will discuss our ideas. We also need to get letters from the abutters to the Sugarloaf Street Cemetery.

**Old Grammar School assessment**

Jane called Mark Gilmore re postponing OGS proposal and is awaiting response. The commission agreed unanimously that this project be put on hold till the summer unless Gilmore has other advice. In that case we will follow his instructions. We have encountered... "unexpected and unexplained delays in expediting this DHC project."

**RFP for Cemetery work:** Assessment of Old Albany Rd. Cemetery and preservation of selected gravestones in the 9 remaining cemeteries.

Jane reports: The new RFP will be based on old successful ones from the 2 previous years, with appropriate changes. Jane will send the draft of RFP by email before the next meeting. Todd said he has a map of the Old Albany Road Cemetery from Mimi Miller and will deliver a copy to Jane.

**New Business**

Bud and Todd have submitted applications for membership in the DHC.

Todd spoke of his background as an engineer and his interest in local history and archaeology. He is on the Executive Council of PVMA and vice chair of the Archaeological Society of Western Mass. He feels very connected to the Valley and moved back here in July 2011. His grandmother lived in S. Deerfield.

Matt has a great interest also in archaeology. He was from Montague Center and his family came in 1877. He was past Commander of the Hatfield American Legion. He would like to see instituted an archaeology accountability policy for the town. The local population has not been informed of what has been found on archaeological digs and since State agencies were involved there has been no accountability.

Bud has lived in S. Deerfield for 18 years but was raised in the area. He is a life-long citizen archaeologist with a particular and extensive knowledge of Paleolithic natives of this region. He was instrumental in forming the original DHC.

**We started introducing ourselves to the newcomers.**

John, also has an interest in archaeology. He was Chief of Interpretive Services for the State. He is a book binder. He is our representative to the Historic Byways Committee and made a connection for them with our Inventory Project. John will be our new supervisor/representative to the Inventory Project.

We will continue the member introductions at the next meeting.

Henrietta left the meeting at 6:45 and delegated Ken to run the meeting.

An extra meeting will be Monday, February 25, 2013 at 12:00pm

Our next regular meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

Motion to adjourn was made by Betty and seconded by John. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Schoen, clerk