

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
DEERFIELD NH HERITAGE COMMISSION**

A meeting of the members of The Deerfield NH Heritage Commission (**DHC**) was held via Zoom on July 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time.

There were present:	Debra Murphy	Chair
	Dana van der Bijl	Member
	Deborah Boisvert	Member and Treasurer
	Karen Leavitt	Member
	Andrew Merrill	Member
	Erroll Rhodes	Member and Secretary

Absent:	Andrew Robertson	Select Board Liaison
	Carol Levesque	Alternate Member
	Richard Boisvert	Alternate Member

Discussions occurred as follows.

1. A majority of the members of the DHC agreed to the holding of this meeting of the DHC, waiving prior notice. Ms. Murphy acted as Chair of the Meeting and Mr. Rhodes acted as Secretary of the meeting. The Chair stated that a quorum was present and that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the agenda items previously circulated and any other business that might duly arise.
2. The minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2021, following a motion duly made (Mrs. Boisvert), seconded (Mrs. van der Bijl) and voted upon, were approved unanimously.
3. The Treasurer presented the Financial Report dated July 1, 2021, which following a motion duly made (Mrs. Murphy), seconded (Mr. Rhodes) and voted upon, were approved unanimously.
4. It was noted that the Select Board has notified the DHC that their budget for next year is due by August 5th.
5. It was noted that the State's Byways Committee is not fully staffed at present, which has placed an effective block on the project moving forward.
6. Mrs. Boisvert noted that the DHC website is now online at DeerfieldHeritage.org, and

offered a presentation of the site. It was noted that the DHC Facebook page could serve to drive traffic to the website. There was a discussion of acknowledging photo credits, as well as of thanking the Deelys for their contribution of hosting the DHC website for a significant number of years. It was agreed to thank the contributing parties for their generosity.

7. The Old Home Day (OHD) presentation being put together by Mrs. Leavitt was discussed. Mrs. van der Bijl was thanked for her efforts in standardizing the topical pieces prepared for distribution at OHD. It was agreed to add a QR code to the OHD presentation table as well as to the topical article sheets so that recipients and visitors could have quick and convenient access to the DHC site resources. OHD logistics were also discussed, as was the OHD messaging to focus on involvement, awareness and participation in the town.
8. The banner and materials expenses for OHD were discussed. Upon a motion duly made (Mrs. Murphy), seconded (Mr. Rhodes) and voted upon, reimbursement of \$10.00 to Mrs. Leavitt for banner expenses was approved unanimously. Following further discussion, it was moved (Mrs. Boisvert) seconded (Mr. Merrill) that reasonable expenses up to the amount of \$150.00 incurred by Mrs. Murphy in the course of preparing OHD presentation materials be reimbursed to her, and upon vote, the motion was approved unanimously.
9. There was a discussion of DHC in-person meetings. Mr. Rhodes was charged with pursuing venue options.
10. It was noted that there has been little progress on the Town Hall Use project now that five bids have been received on the required window work (two from restorers and three from modern glasswork shops). It was proposed to have the upper sash bolstering done this year before winter. It was also noted that the Energy Committee has arranged for an energy audit of the Town Hall, the results of which they are proposing to share with the DHC in aid of the overall Use project. Funding methods for the window restoration project were discussed, including L-Chip, Moose Plate, public fundraising and a warrant article (which will require approaching the BoS in the next several months together with Ray Ellis). Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Merrill), seconded (Mr. Rhodes) and voted upon, it was unanimously agreed to spend up to \$1000.00 to block the upper sashes of the Town Hall windows in need of blocking for the purpose of conserving energy, in anticipation of addressing the restoration of the windows in a more comprehensive manner in the near future. Mr. Rhodes was charged with working with Mr. Ellis to make a proposal to the BoS consistent with this motion to achieve the blocking of the relevant upper window sashes.
11. Mr. Rhodes reported on his recent interactions with Messrs. Arron Sturgis and Jack Sobon, referred by the Preservation Alliance as a gin-pole guru.

12. Mr. Rhodes reported on the situation at the Thurston Pond Road Dam, which had recently become a topic of interest following the substantial rainfalls which were causing overflows along a portion of the dam, in part due to the presence of a beaver dam in and around the sluiceway. A meeting among abutters, the town (who own the road and dam) and several other interested parties as well as two DES representatives took place on July 14th, the general result of which was a concurrence that a beaver management plan should be agreed by the relevant parties in the interests of preserving what was acknowledged to be a remarkable historic monument of eighteenth century waterworks engineering which remained – in the words of the DES engineer – “in great shape”. It was noted that a number of other eighteenth and nineteenth century waterworks also exist in town, and that these might form the core of a ‘waterworks tour’ that could be featured on the Heritage Map.
13. There was a discussion of membership on the DHC and its talent needs. Mrs. Boisvert was charged with seeking to arrange a GIS specialist to join the next DHC meeting.
14. It was noted that the next meeting of the DHC will be held in person on September 21, 2021.

Following a confirmation of there being no further business to be transacted at this Meeting it was moved (Mr. Rhodes), seconded (Mr. Merrill) and unanimously agreed to adjourn this meeting, and in witness thereof, these Minutes have been issued as of the date hereinabove written.

Debra Murphy
Chairman of the Meeting

Erroll Rhodes
Secretary of the Meeting