

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

A meeting of the members of The Deerfield NH Heritage Commission (**DHC**) was held at the George B. White building on July 27, 2021, at 6:00 PM Eastern Time.

There were present:	Debra Murphy	Chair
	Dana van der Bijl	Member
	Andrew Merrill	Member
	Erroll Rhodes	Member and Secretary

Absent:	Andrew Robertson	Select Board Liaison
	Deborah Boisvert	Member and Treasurer
	Karen Leavitt	Member
	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. There was a discussion of the recent activity at the Thurston Pond Road Dam and the discussion at the Select Board meeting of July 26th. Following a motion duly made (Mrs. Murphy), seconded (Mrs. van der Bijl) and voted upon, it was agreed unanimously that a letter drafted by Mr. Merrill (see attached) be sent to the Select Board stating the DHC's support of the Select Board's approach to the Thurston Pond Road Dam issue, and emphasizing the importance of ensuring the repair and restoration of that historic structure.

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

Deerfield Heritage Commission

July 29, 2021

Dear Select Board Members:

We were dismayed to learn of the recent damage to the Thurston Pond Dam. This is an important and unique part of Deerfield's history and heritage dating back to its construction in or about 1772.

The unauthorized removal of a portion of the dam near the sluiceway is more than regrettable. We were represented at the Select Board's meeting on July 26, 2021, and both appreciate and support the sentiments expressed by the Board and the landowners abutting Thurston Pond.

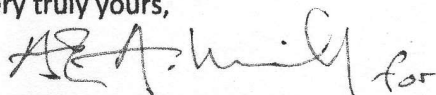
In particular, we are supportive of the determination expressed by the Board to undertake appropriate repairs to the dam and sluiceway to remediate the damage and to return both the dam and sluiceway to their prior condition.

In so saying we note that, just prior to the actions taken which damaged the dam, the condition of the dam was deemed "in great shape" by engineers from the NH Division of Environmental Services during the course of the inspection undertaken on July 14, 2021, in the company of abutting landowners and representatives of the Board.

In light of the facts and circumstances known presently the damage to the dam was the result of, at minimum, ill-advised action taken which is likely to have controverted NH environmental statutes and/or regulations.

We request and will appreciate being kept advised of action taken by the Board in connection with this incident.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Debra Murphy", followed by the word "for" written in a cursive script.

Deerfield Heritage Commission

Debra Murphy, Chair
Karen Leavitt
Andrew Merrill
Dana van der Bijl
Erroll Rhodes, Secretary
Richard Boisvert
Carol Levesque