



Minute from Heritage Commission Meeting  
Monday, April 5, 2021

Present: Karen Blandford-Anderson, TJ Cullinane, Mark Wiseman, Catherine Bauman, Paul Lindemann, and Mark Mastromarino.

7:00pm - Call to order

7:00pm - Chairman's Report

- Financials show that we currently have \$97,471.64 in the Heritage Account (3031000 – 013101)

7:05pm – Friends of the Forest Hill's Cemetery – TJ Cullinane

Friends of Forest Hill Cemetery 2.0 - Targeting Saturday, September 11, 2021 as the launch date of "Friends of Forest Hill, 2.0" with potential recruiting at Derryfest (should it happen) – decision at June 7, 2021 meeting.

- The Spring is still a little sketchy thanks to COVID-19, and the summer is usually too hot to do any hard work, so TJ thinks the weekend after Labor Day is a good day for a re-launch.
- It will be nice to do something positive on the 20th anniversary of 9/11
  - TJ will coordinate with Julie Huss to run an article in the September 9 issue of the "Derry News."
  - TJ will ask Paul Lindemann for assistance in coordinating a meeting space at FPC. The meeting will go from 10:00 -11:30am
    - The meeting objectives are to:
      - Sign up new members and elect officers.
      - Establish sub-committees (Cleaning, Research, Public Affairs, Long-term Restorations)
      - Set dates for general clean-up and training / certification.
- TJ will work with Paul to see if we can get the self-guided tour pamphlet published by then.
- In the spring and summer, TJ intends to work with Keith, our professional restoration specialist, to address storm damage and projects requiring expert help. Estimates will be forthcoming at future meetings.

#### Publishing Projects Status and Plans - Civil War Book

- Paul presented me with the "galley proofs" of the Civil War book last month.
- TJ has reviewed these and found 21 items, mainly minor typos and formatting errors.
- The plan of action is for Paul to make the corrections and then hand the manuscript over to Mark Mastromarino for final indexing.
- Our target date is publication July 4, 2021 (pending Indexing speed).

#### DPL Genealogy Project – met with Erin Robinson the Research Assistant at the Derry Public Library.

- The DPL is getting ready to formally launch the Forest Hill Burial database and make it available on-line. It contains a record of every burial between 1722 and 2005.
- To this end, TJ gave research librarian Erin Robinson a cemetery tour on 29 MAR. Erin has been fielding many genealogy requests of late, especially on the First Settlers.
- Her intent is to add additional biographical information on historic figures and expand the database to the present day.
- Erin has also expressed interest in joining the Friends of Forest Hill as the staff genealogist. She is working on becoming a certified genealogist and expects to complete her studies in July.
- Erin has also been conducting research on Black History in Derry and has found some fascinating information on Derry's African- American community in the Jazz Era. We may consider inviting Erin to a future meeting to discuss these findings, William Hobdy.
- Black History Trail in NH is always looking to add more information and add stops on the trail.

#### Library Talks

- Liz Ryan is looking to re-start the DPL speaker series this fall. I have signed up to present on John Stark and Mary Anne MacGregor
- May 4<sup>th</sup> talk on Hauntings in Derry. Upton's Widow – Robert Frost poem "The Black Cottage" Poet Laureate.

#### St. Thomas Aquinas Student History Club

- The St. Thomas Aquinas Student History Club run by Erin Gagliardi and Sue Gauthier are currently researching a treasure trove of letters written by a U.S. Marine in 1901 during the Filipino-American War.
- The letters are from the Rick Holmes Collection
- Amongst the letters are some artifacts from a village priest who was abused by U.S. troops for his part in the Balingian Massacre. This notorious incident saw 48 U.S. Soldiers killed by bolo wielding "insurrectionists". U.S. retribution was equally brutal and the repercussions from the heavy-handed U.S. response still haunt relations between our countries to this very day.
- The students have recently made contact with Filipino students and historians in Balingian and are working to shed new information on this incident and return the artifacts taken from the priest.
- The Student Group is interested in taking a tour of the Derry History Museum in the near future.

- TJ has been working with the group at the invitation of Erin and Sue. They are a wonderful group of serious scholars. They meet on Wednesday night from 6 - 7:30 in the Aquinas Center. May be some recruiting opportunity within this group.

All in all, activities seem to be picking up. I hope that things are soon back to normal.

#### 8:00pm Museum Update – Mark Mastromarino

- Month of April – not available for projects except the Indexing.
- Video completed on Apollo 14/Alan Shepard
- McAuliffe/ Shepard Planetarium help with the Driving Tour of Alan Shepard – url from Mark.
- Pinkerton Academy had some online items on Alan Shepard – new exhibit case display.
- Old Academy Building is on the National Register
- DPL – Digitizer Natasia (?) is working on digitizing the Derry News – we have a box of Derry News that Rick Holmes feels is not yet online. Project to review them and see what is available already and which ones are missing.
- Article on the Spanish Influenzas in the Alumnus
- Stone walls in New Hampshire
- Museum
- Maps that were in the Town Historian offices are now in the school desk in the museum.
- Location of the Library when it was in the Adam's Building.
- Association Hall – State Register – Historical State Market for Derry Village and Association Hall.
- Historic Organ from FPC was facilitated it return to the church.
- Accession backlog is still working through.
- Museum reopening – gave KBA requirements for museum opening. Paul Lindemann recommending

#### Potential NEW Project –

- Commercial Industrial Center Exhibit – sponsored by Greater Derry Chamber of Commerce.
- Driving Tour – update.
- Calendar Project – for future use.

#### 8:30pm - Current Projects – Paul Lindemann

- Museum – Opening Process Planning
- Collections:
  - Decide on Omeka versus PastPerfect database collections inventory and exhibits database systems.
  - If Omeka, purchase hosted version and make plan for training then entering inventory etc.
  - Camera recommendations for Inventory – Paul to get the recommendations for 2-3 models that would work for inventory and public events.
- Multimedia Projects
  - Alan Shepard Artifacts & Stories - review & lessons
- New Videos to Produce: past Talks, etc.
- Outreach and Public Relations – Building up of Content.
- Active Projects:
  - Publishing Projects Status & Plans

- Civil War Soldiers Book – final production and indexing
  - Derry Coloring Book – production
- Social Media & Promotion
  - Annotated Photos (Rick)
- Friends of Forest Hill Cemetery
  - Discuss public launch target date.
  - Identify asks and make plans.

9:00pm - Robert Frost and Stagecoach Byway – Catherine Bauman

9:05 pm - Derry Arts Council – Mark Wiseman

9:15pm - New Business:

- Friends of the meeting house – looking for more donations.
- Farmer Market – Call Neil Wetherbee to let him know we'd like to be included.
- Derby/Derry Day – May 1<sup>st</sup> – Send Ideas to Karen Blandford-Anderson.

9:30pm – Motion to Adjourn. Next meeting, June 7, 2021, 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Blandford-Anderson, Chairperson, Derry Heritage Commission. June 7, 2021