



Derry Heritage Commission

Update for Town Council Meeting – January 4, 2022

The Commission's goal is to provide information and direction for anyone interested in the history of the town and preserving information for later generations.

The current members include:

- Karen Blandford-Anderson, Chairperson
- Paul Lindemann, Vice Chairperson
- Thomas J. Cullinane
- Mark Wiseman
- Catherine Baumann, (alternate)
- 2 Open (alternate)
- Mark Mastromarino continues as the Museum Curator and participates in a reporting function for the Museum.

Meetings

Meetings were held virtually until October 2021 when it was finally safe to convene in person again. The Commission meets on the first Monday of every other month. Our next scheduled meeting is February 7, 2022.

Derry Museum of History

Current activities

- The Museum continues to be the largest focus for the Commission. This year we've added to our inventory as acquisitions continued to flow from all sources including people who are cleaning out their attics and discovering artifact that are relevant to the town. Our policy is to accept items with direct connection to a person, business, or event from or about Derry NH.
- The commission purchased a software product, Omeka, specifically designed for cataloging museum collections. We're in the process of entering all the details and photos for new items and working to catalog items already in the museum. There are currently over 3000 pieces in the collection.
- Part of our outreach has been a high school group, The Junior Historians, who volunteer on Wednesday nights with their chaperones, to assist in this database project. As the group has grown, their duties have also encompassed working with one of our members in providing private tours.



Future Activities:

- Reopening the museum will be a priority for 2022. There will be a working group at the museum on January 8, 2022, starting at 10:00am to begin the process of cleaning (dusting and organizing) the museum for a scheduled reopening in February.
- Reorganizing and refreshing the museum displays has begun to take shape with the assistance of Kaleigh Pare Shaughnessy and experienced museum professional, specializing in community engagement. Kaleigh is providing guidance on ways to create a more engaging experience at the museum and within our social media channels.

Other projects

- Final publication of the book about "*Civil War Heroes from Derry*" written by TJ Cullinane which debut at Derryfest in September 2021.
- Completing the Derry Coloring Book by Mark Mastromarino
- Boston Post Cane Search was finalized, and presentation made to Mrs. Irene Blanchard, who turned 105, July 25, 2021.
- Friends of the Forest Hills Cemetery tours and restoration projects. Four projects were completed in 2021 to upright a number of headstones, table stones, and monuments.
- Updating the Museum display areas and display case in the Town Hall
- Upgrading our graphics for events and speaker opportunities
- Continued partnership with the McGregor Library providing speakers and topics to expand our reach into the community with interesting and fun information about the town's history
- Members consult with various groups and are included in meetings for the:
 - Stagecoach and Robert Frost By-ways committee (Ongoing)
 - Alan B. Shepard Mural Project (Completed)
 - Downtown Economic Development

The Heritage Commission is looking forward to providing historical information and research services to the residents of Derry again in 2022.

Respectfully submitted, January 4, 2022.

Karen Blandford-Anderson, Chairperson
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