Alford Historic District Commission
Board Meeting 18th September 2018

Present: Ellen Bairstow, Robin Ban, Tricia Bevan, Alice Halsted, Ruth Littlechild, Shirley Mueller, Margareta Thaute,

I: Call to Order: 2.05 p.m.

II: Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

III: Dancin’ 2 – Lessons Learned

It was a very successful event – more than 300 people in attendance. All aspects were discussed and suggestions followed for improvement:

• TENT: worked out really well – it could have been bigger – perhaps add another tent – half the size again? Have the tent fill the distance between the trees and the entrance to the Town offices steps.

• RAFFLE TABLE: Could have been positioned in a better spot – between the food and the dance floor. Need better lighting for this table next year. Choice of prizes was a good idea. All donations were of interest and were presented beautifully. Artwork was especially popular.

• BAKED GOODS: The church raised $105 from the sale. Pastor Ken expressed gratitude to Alice.

• PORTO-POTTY: Perfect!

• MUSIC – Engage Aldo again – just square dancing next time – set the time from 6 – 9 p.m. Alice will make contact with Aldo.

• SOUND SYSTEM- We need a separate PA system for announcements.

• FOOD-TRUCK – Food was excellent; the wait was long. We would like to engage the same truck next year. Tricia is to make contact and book 413 Food Truck for next August, and discuss the wait – time with the owner as well as the possibility of sharing a percentage of the income with the town.

• ICE CREAM – This required considerable effort on the committee’s part. Tricia will discuss alternatives with 413-Food Truck.

• DECORATIONS: Tent and table decorations were excellent, thanks to the Garden Club and to committee members. Alice will write a thank you letter to Garden Club?

• HAY BALES: Worked beautifully. Need to research future alternatives due to weather etc. Town Hall benches around the dance floor was one suggestion. Much depends on the weather.

• PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION: both worked smoothly. Tricia will send thanks to the owners of the parking lot.

• LIGHTING: Complaints that some lights were too bright (the Town Hall exterior lighting), others not sufficiently bright (the Tent).

• PROMOTION: ADVERTISING: Seemed to work well. Tricia to send note to Alan Chartok.

• SIGNAGE: Needs improvement … road signs should be larger (cost?) and contain less text. Banner could either be in a better position, or larger in size – or both.
• **BUDGET:** We took in $1500 plus $1100 from the Cultural Council. It was decided that we would ask for $2500 from the Council for 2019.

**IV: 2019**
Alford Link Celebration: Spring 2019 – May 11th 5 – 7 p.m. Cocktails. Committee will provide finger food. Alice will emcee the event, and will ask Alford Link’s President to appoint a member to relate the history of the venture. Our goal is to thank the Broadband Committee and to let the townspeople know what an accomplishment it was – a huge commitment of time and expertise. Alice will contact Peter Puciloski to discuss the proposed date and details. Shirley suggested some graphics for the event, and will investigate copyright protections for any images we hope to use on printed materials. Promotion of the reception would be through Alford Assist.

As 2019 proposals to the Massachusetts Cultural Council must be submitted this October, the Commission had to decide at this meeting about next year’s event. We unanimously voted to hold another square dance on Sat, Aug 31, Labor Day weekend 2019. Tricia will prepare the proposal once the forms are available and ask for $2,500.

The possibility of inaugurating an Alford Lecture Series was discussed. It would be in addition to the Community Café – probably an evening event. This would be a means of raising additional funds to support needed maintenance and repairs for the historic district. Several speakers were suggested. There will be further/future discussions concerning this idea.

**V: Collaboration with Egremont:** This suggestion was tabled for further consideration. Our Cultural Council funding makes working together a good match. We will await the right opportunity to do this.

**VI: Council on Aging**
We will look into this source of funding for future programming that might be of interest to Alford residents.

**VII: “Parsonage” Process:**
There is committee interest in assisting the Selectmen in preparing a presentation to the town – but there is much background work to be done. This building is currently not included in the Historic District and therefore not within the AHDC purview.

One of many issues raised was, “Can the structure be considered historic?” We will need to contact the state to see what the rules are.

**VIII: Pending:**
Tricia will collect photographs of possible alternatives to an A.D.A.-approved cement walkway.

**IX: New Business:**
No new business

**X: Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Dates for future meetings:

**Tentative meeting scheduled for December 4 at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall**

**Regular meeting scheduled for February 6th at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall**