

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Minutes of January 17, 2013 Meeting

Present: Committee members Steve Coswell, Chair; Patty Johnson, Treasurer; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Susan Brennan, George Cornwall, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson, Bob Fichtel, Kate Mahoney, Karen Mattus, Linda Ramsdell and Linc Stiles. Guests: Chris Gagnon, Randy Phelps, and Sallie Thoma.

Steve Coswell called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm. Treasurer Patty Johnson said her report was basically the same as last month. The Secretary's previous meeting minutes, e-mailed to all committee members right after the December meeting, were accepted as written.

Chris Gagnon, invited by Steve Coswell to narrate Downtown Days' Trolley Tours in 2013, 2014 and 2015, gave a brief account of the route he would like to take for the 2013 tour. He was asked to keep the tour short, so there could be several trolley runs each day, and so tourists would remain interested. Chris will submit a written proposal at the February meeting.

Sallie Thoma, Ashburnham Business Council, Historical Society and Rail Trail Committee, spoke on the background of the Downtown Day Trolley Tours, first arranged by the Business Council, later hosted by the Historical Society. She then gave a brief progress report on the Rail Trail. She was asked to identify ways the 250th Celebration Committee could help the Rail Trail Committee. Suggestions included a hike or treasure hunt along the Rail Trail route.

The Committee learned from Randy Phelps of the Lions Club that since the Ashburnham Lions' 50th Anniversary year is also 2015, it would be a double celebration for the Lions to have a float in the 250th Anniversary parade. Another "Brothers of the Brush" beard-growing contest, such as for the town's 225th anniversary, was discussed. Randy was asked if, in 2015, the Lions Club's annual Downtown Day barbecue could be held at Oakmont as a lead-up to the fireworks display there. The challenge that day will be to provide activities to bridge the time gap between the close of Downtown Day at Winchester Park at 4:00, and the fireworks, after dark on one of the longest days of the year, following the barbecue. A musical performance might fill the time. Randy described the concert by a noted jazz musician that he is presenting this April 4th, as a fundraiser for the scholarship in memory of his late father, town historian Bob Phelps.

Tyna said the Historical Society wants to share an "Historical Expo" display of small artifacts from the Society's holdings, at Town Hall on the occasion of the Kickoff Gala, February 21st-22nd, 2015, the actual anniversary of the Town's incorporation. Some of these valuable items could be displayed in the locked glass cases in the lobby of Town Hall; others, if exhibited on open tables, would need to be guarded against handling or theft. When not actively on display and before being returned to the Historical Society Museum, they could be secured in the office.

To celebrate the Schoolboy Statue's 100th anniversary, September 15, 2013, the Historical Society wants to host a "Schoolboy Statue look-alike contest" with two categories; child and

adult. First prize will be a check for \$100.00; second prize, a copy of Stearns' history of Ashburnham. Entry fee will be \$5.00, admission to watch the contest, also \$5.00. Oakmont art teacher Greg Barry wrote a thesis on Bela Pratt, the sculptor of the statue. The statue was commissioned by Ivers Whitney Adams, Ashburnham resident and major benefactor.

Steve spoke about getting senior members of longtime Ashburnham families to share reminiscences of the town as it was. This could be an important aspect of the tea party event being planned by the committee, and should be recorded as town history.

Bob reported that the master model of the Schoolboy Statue miniature has been delivered to the foundry where the mold will be made. A sample casting may be available for inspection as of the Committee's February meeting. The edition will be limited to no more than 500, with an initial casting of 150 pieces, more castings to be made as ordered. The Historical Society has pledged to buy any unsold statuettes at cost, to be sold by the Society.

Bob, a professional graphic designer, submitted four variations on his design for the light pole banner. The Committee voted to combine designs two and four, each of which features white backgrounds to black lettering, for better drive-by visibility.

Linc Stiles handed out copies of his suggested list of "Fun and Games" activities to be hosted by either this Committee or any interested party or organization in the town, during the years 2013-2014. He suggested a Halloween activity, perhaps a "Pumpkin Patch" where town kids could pick pumpkins from a field grown especially for the purpose. This has been done for kids in Templeton. George and Linc will organize and host a July swim meet at the Lake Club.

The Committee discussed the possibility of an ecumenical Easter observance, involving all the town churches, and perhaps a children's Easter egg hunt.

Patty Johnson had made a handwritten calendar of special monthly events for 2015, as planned by the Committee over the past year. She will print it up, and copies will be distributed to all Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary

Note, vote was taken related to banner and prototype to be produced.

COPIES TO VARIOUS MEMBERS
13 MAR 2014 9:56 AM

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