

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Minutes of September 19, 2013 Meeting

Present: George Cornwall, Co-Chair; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer; Members: Susan Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Karen Mattus, and Linda Ramsdell.

George called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Secretary's report for July 18th was accepted as written. (There was no meeting in August.) Patty read her Treasurer's report, which was also accepted as written.

Banners: Barbara volunteered to write a letter to be sent to Ashburnham businesses, including an order form for a banner. She will ask Bob Fichtel to add an illustration of the banner to the letter.

Invitation: Members of all Ashburnham committees and boards are invited to attend the dedication of the new John R. Briggs elementary school on Friday, September 27th at 10:00 AM. The invitation letter was circulated for committee members to read.

Schoolboy Statue: Cushing Academy art instructor Robert Johnson wants to work with Oakmont art instructor Greg Barry, to involve their students in a fundraising project for the restoration of the Schoolboy Statue, which shows some age-related deterioration.

Historical Sources: AWCA has been converting the T. Molloy tape recordings of Ashburnham and Westminster history to CD format, with separate CDs for the two towns. Whit Wales, formerly of the Cushing Academy faculty, has donated a series of many hours of recorded interviews with Granville Rideout to the town. Also, George Cornwall spent significant time going through generations of letters and other historical materials from the Rideout family this past summer, following the death of John Rideout. All of these sources present rich opportunities for bringing the living history of Ashburnham to the attention of townspeople in relation to the Anniversary year.

250th Parade Subcommittee: The many issues to be addressed in planning the parade – public safety, traffic control, parade route planning, cleanup, etc. as well as which groups should be invited to participate, and what the theme of the parade should be – absolutely require that we recruit an active subcommittee, and that we begin planning in earnest no later than January, 2014. The committee members present tonight felt the parade should be principally a town function, rather than bringing in many expensive groups from outside the area. Having Ashburnham people design floats and help with plans will make more townspeople feel personally invested in, and excited about, the parade. The committee will decide on a theme for the parade at the October meeting; members should bring suggestions.

Barbara recommended that we invite community leaders such as school principals and Superintendent, church and Scout leaders, art and music teachers, to help with Parade plans, once we have settled on a theme.

Fall Event: We should have a fundraising event in November, perhaps at the Rod and Gun Club. The committee discussed having a meat raffle, combined with a service auction. Committee members should come to the October meeting with proposals of services to be offered for auction.

Blueberry Breakfast: This summer's Blueberry Breakfast was very successful, both in attendance and in revenue. The committee feels this is an activity that should be continued annually after the anniversary year, perhaps as a fundraiser for various local needs, as has been the mission of the Lions Club pancake breakfasts. Barbara will write a thank-you note to the Cushing Academy cook who worked so hard to make the breakfast a success.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick

Patricia H. Frederick