# Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee
## Minutes of May 1, 2014 Meeting

**Present:** Steve Coswell, Chair; George Cornwall, Co-Chair; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Members: Susan Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson and Bob Fichtel.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Steve Coswell.

The Secretary's report was accepted as written.

There was no Treasurer's report.

**Time Capsules**
George reported that the "Ashburnham Foundation Fund" established by George Hoffman for the benefit of the school children of Ashburnham, especially Cushing Academy, was to be administered by the headmaster of Cushing Academy. The fund is to mature as of June, 2015. We need to ask Cushing about the current status of the fund. According to the Time Capsule donor, the opening of the Capsule is to be presided over by the Town Clerk. "Hoffman Day" is to be administered by the Headmaster of Cushing Academy.

According to the instructions, Hoffman's first Time Capsule is to be opened a year before the opening of his "Education" time capsule honoring Louis Eisenlohr. This first capsule contains instructions for whom to invite to the opening of the anniversary year's time capsule, the latter event to be attended by all school children in the town. Steve will contact Oakmont High School Principal David Uminski and Cushing's headmaster about the best ways to involve all of the town's children. Besides promotional announcements on Cable TV and other local news media, there should be posters and announcements in the schools. If possible, the social studies teachers should be involved with making children aware of the Town's history.

The Time Capsule Subcommittee – George, Tyna, Linda and Patty – need to meet and go over the requirements for the openings of the time capsules; the instructions are somewhat complex.

James Robinson, a professional conservation consultant, is officially charged with opening the capsules.

Steve has looked into price, material and quality of traditional red-white-and-blue bunting to decorate the front of Town Hall for the Time Capsule opening ceremony. George moved that we spend not more than $1,000 on bunting; so voted. The bunting can be presented to the Town after the ceremony, to be used at future events.

**Other Business**
The insert to the Light Plant's May bill, with announcements of 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration events and activities on one side of the sheet, and Historical Society announcements on the other, has been submitted by Bob to the Light Plant.

Barbara has consulted with Dottie Munroe about Dottie's "Paint the Town" project – an art show open to all, of oil, acrylic, or watercolor paintings of Ashburnham subjects. Dottie has been entrusted with sole responsibility for organizing the event, including recruiting assistants. Barbara recommended to Dottie that she apply for a Cultural Commission grant, and also asked her to write a promotional piece about the project.

Steve has found a cupcake-shaped magnet available online, to be a handout advertising the Town's Birthday celebration. The committee discussed wording for the magnet: "Happy Birthday, Ashburnham! / 250 years 1765-2015 / Feb.22, 2015 / Celebrate Your Town!" The magnet will be handed out as a free gift, from the committee's booth on Downtown Day this year, and at subsequent events preceding the celebration.

The Committee will sell baseball caps, magnets, Schoolboy statuettes, and Blueberry Breakfast tickets at Downtown Day. Barbara will get the tickets printed.

Donna D'Apolito of Donna's Barbershop will buy good quality tee shirts advertising the "Brothers of the Brush" contest, of which she is coordinator. We also need to get bright orange tee shirts for parade volunteers, with the word, "STAFF" printed on the back.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, May 15, at 7:00 pm in the Malcolm Stewart Room of the Stevens Memorial Library. The meeting will be devoted to Parade plans.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia H. Frederick*

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary