

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee
Minutes of June 19, 2014 Meeting

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

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Secretary's report, e-mailed earlier to members, was accepted as written.

The Treasurer's report was given and accepted as written.

Newly-printed 250th Birthday Party refrigerator magnets were handed out to members. These, and cups, can be given away at Downtown Day next week. From last year's inventory, we still have Schoolboy statuettes, car magnets, and hats to sell, as well as the newer light pole banners.

Steve will be picking up the light pole banners from Lyman Signs, and delivering them to the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant to be installed on light poles before Downtown Day. We have sold banners for most of the Downtown light poles.

We should post more pictures on our FaceBook page, as well as posting parade participation forms and a calendar of Celebration events. Members were asked to submit photos relating to past years' events, including Blueberry Breakfast, Downtown Day booth, and the bonfire.

Members discussed table arrangement for Downtown Day, to provide optimum display space for promoting upcoming events, and to sell or give away the above-mentioned items. One long table with a card table at each end should be enough. Display space is needed for "Brothers of the Brush" beard contest tee shirts and signup sheet, and for Dottie Munroe's "Paint the Town" art show and contest information. George has a tent which may be appropriate for the committee's Downtown Day booth; he will try setting it up, to see if it will serve.

Barbara will provide birthday-themed decorations for the booth, to call attention to Celebration plans. Town colors, blue and green, will be featured, and helium balloons would lend a festive air. We still have the banner we used last year.

George shared information on the proposed July, 2015 softball tournament, with Ashburnham players competing against players from Royalston. Their town's 250th Anniversary parade will take place the week before ours, and each town will have a float in the other's parade. George is working out softball game plans with Royalston's Jeff Newton, in charge of that town's celebration activities. George's daughter Amber, who manages softball tournaments, is advising them on Slow Pitch rules and procedures.

The one-day Tournament will be held in one of the two towns, probably to be decided by a coin toss. Whichever town is *not* hosting the game will be responsible for providing hot dogs, hamburgers, beer and wine. Teams will be co-ed, and people of all ages will be invited to play. This is to be a purely fun occasion, not a money-maker. Jeff Newton will attend our committee's July meeting, to help plan logistics.

Dottie Munroe, with assistance from Theresa Moylan, will be in charge of the "Paint the Town" art show and competition. She has printed forms for artists to fill out, registering for the show.

The show will take place at Ashburnham Community Church's fellowship hall, with artists bringing their paintings on Thursday, October 8th, 2015, and the opening reception Friday evening, October 9th. The 250th Celebration Committee will provide refreshments for the reception, and personnel to mind the cash box.

Steve will send Tyna the list of 2015 calendar events, to be printed up for Downtown Day distribution. These will include the Christmas-tree bonfire, and ice skating, at the Turnpike Rod and Gun Club or the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club in January; the historical video presentation with Town Birthday Cake and light refreshments at Oakmont in February; the "Spring Fling" celebration at Cushing Academy in March, with live music, hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails; the Ecumenical Easter Service and Easter egg hunt in April; the picnic at Winchester Park, with live music at the gazebo, possibly on Mother's Day in May; the Time Capsule opening and new capsule stowing at Downtown Day, with BMX demonstration, barbecue and live music leading up to the evening Fireworks Show, in June; the Softball Tournament in July; the Blueberry Breakfast and Family Swim Day at the Lake Club in August; the Parade in September; and the "Paint the Town" art show in October. There will be a cannon firing on each of these occasions.

In planning the Parade, we should engage the expertise of the consultant on floats who worked with Winchendon. Their parade this coming Saturday is scheduled to have one hundred forty floats! This gentleman conducts workshops on float design and execution. George has contacted Navy Lieutenant Commander Eric Vis of Combined Parade _____ in Rhode Island, about having a Navy band march in Ashburnham's parade. If we can get on their calendar early enough, there will be no charge for their participation.

Our Time Capsule Committee needs to meet, to decide how many of Hoffman's instructions can be feasibly carried out in our times. We should meet at least sixty percent of his requirements, to demonstrate good faith to the trustees of the Hoffman funds, in order to qualify for the money he donated for the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm. The next meeting of the Committee will be July 17th at 7:00 pm, in the Malcolm Stewart Community Room of the Stevens Memorial Library.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary