

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee
Minutes of July 17, 2014 Meeting

Present: Steve Coswell, Chair; George Cornwall, Co-Chair; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer; Members: Susan Brennan, Bob Fichtel, Barbara DiVito, and Tyna Donelson. Guest, Geoffrey Newton, from Royalston.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

The Treasurer's report corrected the recently discovered omission of a \$385.00 Blueberry Breakfast expense in the September, 2013 report. The report was accepted as written.

George handed Atlas PyroVision Productions' contract around for members to look at.

Barbara asked for volunteers to help with the August 3rd Blueberry Breakfast. Workers should arrive at 7:30 am. There is some question as to whether local blueberries will be ripe in time for the breakfast; due to lingering cold weather this spring, all crops have been delayed by a couple of weeks. Patty took orders for bread to be sold at the breakfast. Schoolboy statuettes will be available for sale, and Ashburnham Birthday magnets will be handed out.

George showed a sample of the official T-shirt for members of various Celebration sub-committees: the navy blue shirt has the 250th Anniversary logo on the chest, the Town Seal on one sleeve, and an American flag on the other. The logos on the shirts are embroidered, not printed, for better durability. Lettering on the back of the shirt will identify the wearer as a fireworks, parade, or other event-officiating volunteer. Donna D'Apolito, coordinator of the Brothers of the Brush contest, is in charge of obtaining the shirts from a supplier with whom she has done business before.

Mr. Newton, coordinator of many community events in Royalston, spoke about plans for the Softball Tournament to be hosted by our two towns in July, 2015. The games are to be strictly for fun – no trophies to winners. Teams will be coed, 12 to 15 players per team. A coin toss will decide which town hosts the first game. The Committee and Mr. Newton decided on the dates: Friday evening July 24th and Sunday afternoon the 26th. Each town will provide food and drink when hosting the game. The games will take place at Overlook field in Ashburnham and the Fish and Game Club, Royalston. Mr. Newton will find bats, bases and such. Each town will obtain a one-day license to serve beer and wine. The cannon will be fired at the start of each town's game.

Because Royalston's 250th incorporation anniversary is February 19th and Ashburnham's is February 22nd, there is a sense of kinship between the towns. Our townspeople will be invited to Royalston's Birthday Dinner Dance on February 21st, and their people will be invited to our town's Birthday Celebration. We will also have floats in each other's parades. Mr. Newton had suggestions about bands to contact about participation in our parade. Royalston's parade will be on September 12th; Ashburnham's, a week and a half later, September 27th, 2015.

Mr. Newton said Royalston has purchased bunting and a skirt for the reviewing stand (a flatbed truck) from a store in Leominster. Fundraisers for their town's anniversary have included a series

of suppers, on various themes, such as a whole menu - meat, vegetables, and all - raised in the town. Their anniversary committee meets the first Thursday of each month. We will be getting together with Mr. Newton again as necessary for planning jointly-celebrated events.

Calendar of events for 2015

Saturday, January 10 Skating and Christmas-Tree Bonfire at the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club, Rte. 119. Skating on the pond will be from 3:00-4:00 pm, the bonfire at 5:00. Patty volunteered to chair the event. She will contact Jerry Descoteaux at the Fire Department for a burn permit, and ask the Sportsmen's Club about access to their indoor space, for "warm-up" and restrooms. Suggestions for refreshments included hot beverages and foods: coffee, chocolate, cider, marshmallows and s'mores. We should budget around \$300-\$400 for refreshments.

Sunday, February 22 Historical Expo and Birthday Party, at either Oakmont Regional High School or Overlook Middle School; Steve will contact school officials about the best location. Betsy Dillbeck is working on a video retrospective on the Town. Senior citizens will be brought by MART bus. Festivities will begin at 12:30/1:00, the video to be shown at 1:30, and the Birthday Cake celebration at 3:00. Meredith Fagan of The Peppermint Pig will supply cake.

March 7 or 14 "Spring Fling", at Cushing, with dancing to a live band, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and desserts. Barbara will chair, but needs a subcommittee to help. we need to see if Cushing is willing to cater the refreshments. Maybe we could arrange for a dance lesson in advance for those interested in participating.

April Easter Egg Hunt, to be administered by the Parks and Recreation Committee, and Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast, to be conducted by the town's churches.

May 17, a Sunday afternoon: Family band concert, Winchester Park.

June 27 Family Fun Day: Morning, Opening of Time Capsule, dedication of new Time Capsule at Town Hall. Afternoon at Overlook/Oakmont campus: local business exhibits, BMX stunt show, live bands, and Fireworks display by Atlas PyroVision Productions. Refreshments to be available.

July 24, 26 Ashburnham/Royalston softball tournament (see above).

August 15 Morning, Blueberry Breakfast at Cushing Dining Hall. Afternoon, Family Swim Day at the Lake Club. (Date TBA: Family ice skating at Cushing's Iorio Arena)

September 27 Parade. Our August meeting will be devoted to parade plans.

October 8, 9, 10 "Paint Ashburnham" Art Show at Ashburnham Community Church. (Halloween party at Winchester Park?)

The cannon will be fired at the outset of each event.

To-Do Items: The Committee needs to find sponsors for individual events. We should ask the Police Department to post each event on the sign board in front of the Public safety Building.

We need Event Sheets for our next meeting. We should ask other towns that have had recent celebrations if we can rent/borrow any of their bunting to bedeck Town Hall, the Public Safety Building and the parade reviewing stand.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday August 21, at 7:00 pm in the Malcolm Stewart Community Room of the Stevens Memorial Library.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia H. Frederick".

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary