

**Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee
Minutes of August 21, 2014 Meeting**

Present: Steve Coswell, Chair; George Cornwall, Co-Chair; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer. Members: Bob Fichtel, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson and Linda Ramsdell.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. The Secretary's report for July was accepted as written. Patty's Treasurer's report was read, discussed briefly, and accepted.

Steve reported that the GFA Credit Union has proposed a membership campaign featuring a signup card with the 250th Celebration calendar on one side; for each new account opened at the Credit Union, the 250th Celebration Committee will receive \$10.

Steve read the titles and dates, by month, of 250th Celebration Committee's planned events for 2015. Tyna has distributed a "heads up" notice to the schools, to raise initial awareness of the approaching anniversary year activities.

Plans and suggestions concerning the January skating party and Christmas tree bonfire:

Patty reported that acting fire chief Jerry Descoteaux has given conditional approval of a permit for the bonfire, pending his clearing it with the rest of the department. She will continue trying to reach an officer of the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club, concerning use of their property for the event.

Barbara suggested having a central collection point downtown, perhaps at the Highway Department, for people to drop off their Christmas trees. The Committee agreed that it may work better to have the official drop-off day on the morning of January 10th, with the Bonfire the following week, the 17th. The 24th would then be the "snow date", in case of really bad weather. The schedule for the 17th would be, skating from 2:00, bonfire at 4:00.

February 22, 2015: Historical Expo and Town Birthday Party at Oakmont Regional High School:

Patty will be compiling a list of people to invite, including state officials. We will need different lists for the various anniversary year events. The committee discussed format for the invitation. Steve estimated the budget for the event at \$1,500, including printing, food, custodian's fee, etc. Printing will include invitations, program leaflets and thank-you notes.

The committee will send out an appeal for sponsor support, inviting people to be "Silver", "Gold" or "Platinum" donors.

The program leaflet for the event, printed on formal-quality paper, will include a brief history of the Town. The Historical Society can loan old photos and maps of the town, for display. The three-hour program will include Betsy Dillbeck's 90-minute video, with a brief intermission. The Birthday Cake ceremony, with other refreshments, will be at the end of the afternoon. Perhaps Briggs school children can make pictures of Ashburnham to be posted at the party.

Parade: Sunday, September 27, 2015

Susie Brennan, Parade Committee Chair, was unable to attend this meeting, but sent a page of parade requirements, which Steve read aloud to the committee.

Following a discussion of two possible parade routes, the committee concluded that the one originally planned was probably still the better choice: Downtown Center to Briggs School.

The reviewing stand can be at the Public Safety Building.

General plans for the Anniversary Year:

To make people aware of each month's event, we should advertise in local print, online and on-air media, including the Town Website. Patty will have an events sheet by the September meeting.

Winchendon has given permission for Ashburnham to borrow the bunting they used for their town's recent anniversary parade, to decorate Fairbanks Hall for our parade, and maybe also for the time-capsule opening ceremony.

Town secretary Sylvia Turcotte is in favor of using our Anniversary logo as the cover design for the annual Town Report. The deadline for submitting it to her is February.

We need to have a table at the special Fall Town Meeting, to advertise our planned events for the anniversary year.

Lorraine DeSousa will do an all-town mailing in October or November, announcing the calendar of events for the year.

For the September meeting, each member of the committee should recruit helpers for the various celebration events. The September meeting will be on Thursday the 18th at 7:00 pm in the Malcolm Stewart Community Room of the Stevens Memorial Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary