

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee
Minutes of January 16, 2014 Meeting

Present: Steve Coswell, Chair; George Cornwall, Co-Chair; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer; Members: Susan Brennan, Tyna Donelson, Bob Fichtel, Karen Mattus, and Linda Ramsdell. Reporter Steve Landry from the Gardner News attended the meeting.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:05. The secretary's report for November 21, the last meeting of the committee, was accepted as written.

Patty read her treasurer's report, also accepted as written.

Patty has mailed 154 copies of the promotional flier Bob Fichtel designed for the anniversary banners, including an order form and a diagram of light pole locations where banners will be mounted. Samples of the letter were distributed to members. Bob has plenty of copies left.

George reported that the fireworks company he has engaged for the evening celebration capping Downtown Day, 2015, has agreed to produce a show tailored to fit the Committee's budget of \$15,000. The length of the show is to be one half hour.

Steve will make an oral proposal, also submitted in writing, to the Selectmen, outlining the Committee's plans for opening the Time Capsule, with related events "in the spirit of" the wishes of Mr. Hoffman, who set up a fund and grand plans for the Time Capsule's ceremonial opening. Steve has ascertained that \$20,000. is indeed in the trust fund for this purpose.

Bob reported that the Family Pharmacy has given permission for a 250th Celebration mural to be painted on the white exterior wall of their building. Bob will ask Art Department faculty members at Cushing and Oakmont for help with this project. He will see if Cumberland Farms will also permit a mural on their building's outside wall.

The cost of the light pole banners is \$115. each: \$93. for the banner, plus \$22. for upper and lower brackets to mount it. These sleeved banners are to be printed on both sides, and reinforced with grommets. Lyman Signs in Phillipston has 60 sets of brackets available; Steve made a motion that the Committee purchase them. Motion approved. A sample banner is to be displayed in the Town Hall lobby, with order forms available at the counter. George moved that a second sample banner be displayed outdoors downtown; motion approved.

Downtown Day, 2015: The schedule will open with the reading of a proclamation, followed by the opening of the Time Capsule. In addition to the Lions Club's annual chicken barbecue at 4:00, the Committee will invite other Town-based organizations such as Parks and Recreation, OMPA, the Bresnahan Scout and Community Center, and the Police and Fire Departments, to sponsor and participate in activities between the barbecue and the Fireworks show. Because the last Saturday in June is among the longest days of the year, there will be considerable time to fill before the fireworks show can begin. Perhaps one of these other groups will want to sell hotdogs and hamburgers, contributing a "permit" fee to the Committee, and retaining the rest of their proceeds. Live music would be desirable. The Committee plans to arrange for Scouts

or Oakmont students to direct parking, and help with cleanup after the show. Police will be asked to provide security coverage. We will arrange for porta-potties and trash disposal containers. We will charge a modest parking fee/donation per car.

Steve will request an appointment with the Superintendent of Schools, about using grounds at Oakmont for the fireworks show, parking, etc.

Sales of the Schoolboy statuettes have been going well; profits thus far are \$2,321. Cushing has sold a good number of them, and will probably sell more at graduation and at alumni gatherings. Bob has about forty left in inventory, and another ten or so are at Creative Connections.

Steve has had a preliminary meeting with Cushing representatives about the school's involvement with the 250th Anniversary Celebration, since 2015 is also Cushing's 150th anniversary year. Cushing will provide some programming.

The kickoff event of the year 2015 will be a bonfire in January, of Christmas trees from all over town. Steve is weighing the possibility of an ice-fishing derby.

The Committee hopes to work with Bob Young on a Firemen's Muster in August, 2015, in which companies from a wide area will bring their antique pumpers to compete with Ashburnham's Hancock Tub, to see who can pump the farthest stream of water.

Tyna suggested including Donald Lang's old cars in the parade.

At 8:13, Bob moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Committee will be February 20th at 7:00 PM in the Malcolm Stewart Community Room at the Stevens Memorial Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary

