

**Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee**  
**Minutes of October 20, 2014 Meeting**

**Present:** Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, co-chairs; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer. Members: Susan Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson and Bob Fichtel. Guests: Ron Newman of the Ashburnham Business Council (ABC), and Kelly Hansen, Ashburnham citizen.

Steve called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Steve presented the colorful design for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Calendar, listing planned events for the Anniversary Year. The calendar will be inserted in November's Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant bill.

The GFA Credit Union will cover the cost of mailing a long, folded-format postcard in December.

Barb phoned Dottie Munroe to confirm dates for the "Paint Ashburnham" art show, at Ashburnham Community Church's Fellowship Hall. Drop-off of art works will be Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Set-up of the show will be Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4:00, followed by a public reception from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The exhibit will be open Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4:00, and artists should pick up their works between 4:00 and 5:00 PM.

Tyna shared her draft of an invitation to the opening of the Ashburnham "Century Box", to be held Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, on the front steps of Fairbanks Hall. The date was chosen to coincide with Cushing Academy's Alumni Day. Because the event was supposed to be for school children, we will distribute take-home fliers to the schools. Steve has received authorization from the Council on Aging, and from Town Administrator Doug Briggs and Secretary Sylvia Turcotte, for the use of MART buses to transport senior citizens to the event.

George will arrange transportation with Wilson Bus Lines, Inc., for the Swim Day at the Lake Club.

At next week's Special Town Meeting, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Committee will have a table in the lobby for selling Schoolboy statuettes, hats, and car magnets, and will hand out copies of the year's calendar, and "Birthday" refrigerator magnets. Steve will address the meeting to explain the Committee's reasons for requesting funds, in Article 7 of the Town Warrant.

Steve read the Committee his proposed budget for each of the monthly events in 2015.

Patty has sent a letter to potential major sponsors, soliciting funds.

Susan reported that two bagpipe bands, the "Scots Highland" and Worcester Police, have committed to participate in the Parade. Ashburnham Police Sgt. Chris Conrad is arranging for two-way radios for parade personnel, and Oakmont band director Kris Demoura will be getting back to us about band participation. George is still working on having military band presence.

Donna D'Apolito's barber shop has a sign-up page for the "Brothers of the Brush" contest. She will host a special Sign-Up event October 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00-8:00 PM, at McNally's Grill & Pub, Westminster. The many categories for judging beards and mustaches will include those begun longer ago and more recently.

At our next Committee meeting, we will plot a timeline of which Celebration details must be confirmed by what date, and by which committee member(s). Pat can bring a sample of the Ashburnham Business Council's timeline for Downtown Day preparations from previous years.

### **Community Day, June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Ron Newman is the ABC's Chairman to coordinate Community Day activities and participation. This includes approving Town-based vendors, and marking the ground space allotted to each.

We need to pay for trophies for the Firemen's Muster, as well as supplying the paper that shows how far each stream of water is pumped. We are to pay the New England States Veteran Fireman's League, sponsors of the event.

The Lions Club's annual Chicken Barbecue will be from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

The Wm. J. Bresnahan Scouting and Community Center will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages during the day.

Local classic rock band, Neurotic Gumbo, will play three 1-hour sets. Gale Force blues rock band is actually two bands, led by brothers Len and Ken Gale.

The BMX extreme stunt bicycle demonstration will charge \$1,600. for two acts during the afternoon.

Ron Newman can invite various automobile clubs to display cars.

### **Other Business**

There will be no charge to enter a float in the parade.

Christmas trees for the January 17<sup>th</sup> Bonfire can be dropped off at the Municipal Grounds Building, 8 Williams Road, from 10:00 AM to noon, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

We still need definite confirmation from the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club on the use of their building, January 17<sup>th</sup>, for restroom access, warm-up, and hot cocoa.

Townpeople will be invited to nominate an Ashburnham citizen for Parade Grand Marshal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM. The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday evening, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM, at the Stevens Memorial Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Patricia H. Frederick*  
Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary