

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee
Minutes of November 3, 2014 Meeting

Present: Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer. Members: Susan Brennan and Karen Mattus. Guest: Ron Newman of the Ashburnham Business Council (ABC).

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

Patty gave her financial report. "Brothers of the Brush" tee-shirts will be ordered according to the number of participants signed up. George said the shirts will be paid for by a series of fundraising suppers, and hat sales. Patty has made ledger sheets, one for each event, to help keep specific records of revenue and expenses.

The Secretary's report for October 20th was accepted with one correction.

Steve showed the insert for November's Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant bills, with the year's calendar of events on one side, and the schedule of monthly cannon firings on the other.

September Parade Plans

Susie read aloud a page of rules for Parade participants.

Several side streets will be closed off to provide a staging area for each of the five parade divisions. Each division will consist of a variety of units, including one or more bands, floats, vintage cars, etc. Possible staging areas under consideration include Pleasant Street, Memorial Drive, Lawrence Street, Chapel Street, the Highway Barn and the parking area for Cushing's Iorio Arena. Parking will be available at St. Denis and Ashburnham Community Churches, the soccer field, Cashman Hill Road, and the Rod and Gun Club.

Susie will invite fire departments in surrounding towns to bring fire trucks, preferably antiques. We will limit the number of fire trucks to ten. The Midstate Fire Association will be a good contact.

For each division in the parade, we should have six volunteers to assist with logistics. Possible sources of Volunteers include Monty Tech, Lions Club, and the Bresnahan Scouting and Community Center.

Ashburnham's new Fire Chief, Paul Rekos, will provide first aid and ambulance coverage.

We will need one porta-potty for each of the five divisions, plus two extras.

Signage will include "No Parking" signs in red, "Parking" signs in blue, with arrow to indicate parking area. Detour signs and sawhorses for staging-area roads will be provided by the Highway Department. There will be an identifying sign on the Grand Marshal's car, and one on the car carrying the "Most Senior Citizen". Ashburnham's Council on Aging can decorate their own car.

We need to ask if Monty Tech can supply the bleachers for the reviewing stand.

Perhaps we can borrow a golf cart to carry Susie around the parade route.

Representatives of major Celebration sponsors, the Athol Savings Bank and the GFA Credit Union, will ride in special, vintage cars, as will political officials. Officials will be dropped off at the Reviewing Stand. Ron Newman will supply the cars. Marchers will carry banners bearing the names and logos of major sponsors.

As soon as we begin to advertise the parade, we are likely to hear from vendors hoping to sell their wares along the parade route. In deference to the Downtown merchants, we will not permit vendors to be closer to Main Street than the Highway Barn. Vendors will be required to pay a fee in advance.

We will offer the workshop on floats, in April.

We need to budget for official letterhead stationery and postage for formal invitations.

There should be ice and water for Reviewing Stand personnel, and coffee or soda for participants, at the end of the parade route.

We should announce three months' activities at a time, quarterly, on Ash-West Cable TV's Public Service Announcements.

Community Day Plans

Ron Reed will pay for participation by the "Bellevue Cadillac" band.

We can issue parking permits to sponsors, and charge other spectators \$5.00 per car. Handicapped parking spaces will need to be designated.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 17th at 7:00 PM, at the Stevens Memorial Library.

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