

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee
Minutes of December 2, 2014 Meeting

Present: Steve Coswell, Chairman; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer.
Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, and Bob Fichtel.

Steve called the Meeting to order at 7:03 PM. He corrected one date, Sunday, July 19th on our calendar of events, and stated that the Family Hike will be Saturday, October 17th.

The committee members made suggestions on Steve's draft design for the banners to be displayed across Main Street downtown, and across Center Street, South Ashburnham. The banners should be printed as soon as Steve can send the material to the sign maker.

Patty showed new thank-you note cards featuring a vintage photo of Downtown Ashburnham, and also, newly printed handouts advertising the bonfire.

The Secretary's report of the November 3rd meeting was accepted as written.

Patty read her Treasurer's report, and reported on meeting with the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club board last night. The board had some concerns about adequate vehicle parking. The Club will provide hot coffee and hot chocolate. The bonfire will be across Route 119 from the club building; we need to provide a police officer to supervise safe pedestrian crossing. The Town will provide Police and Fire personnel, snow removal for the parking area, cleanup of the ashes from the bonfire, and spotlights on the pond. The Town will also cover liability insurance for the event. We will clear the skating pond of snow. Susie will ask for an event announcement on the electric sign at the Public Safety building. Wreathes for the bonfire, from the Veterans' cemetery in Winchendon, are to be picked up on Thursday, January 15th. Steve has some pallets to contribute to the bonfire. George plans to ignite the bonfire by cannon fire. Patty will contact the Sportsmen's Club for any final details.

Tyna is speaking to Meredith Fagan about the Cake for the Birthday Bash. We will supply hot coffee, creamer, sugar, hot water for tea, ice water, drinks for kids, and paper plates, napkins, cups, and plastic forks. Barbara will ask some store owners for donations. Pat's children's choir will sing at the event. Betsy Dillbeck is seeking a Master of Ceremonies.

The GFA Credit Union is sponsoring the mass mailing of our Anniversary Year Calendar, to be sent the first week of January, avoiding the Christmas mail rush.

Pat will ask Joan Webber, of the Ecumenical Council, about the best date for the April service.

Patty has a list of Town department chairpersons who should receive invitations to the Birthday Bash and later, to the Century Box opening ceremony. We need to include school superintendents and principals, Senator Gobi, Representative Zlotnik, pastors of all the town's churches, and a representative of Camp Wellville.

Susie proposed that Oakmont's Marching Spartans be the only high school band in the parade, due to the seemingly high fees charged by other high school bands. This would free up funds for more professional bands. The committee agreed this would be a better use of the money. We need cable TV to film the parade. Susie has arranged for Kevin Lashua to provide six portapotties for the parade. She will have use of a golf cart licensed for on-street driving, for her supervision of staging for the parade.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting will take place Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 PM, in the basement meeting room at Town Hall.

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