

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

Present: Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer. Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, and Bob Fichtel.

Steve called the Meeting to order at 6:59 PM. The Secretary's minutes of the December 2nd meeting were accepted as written.

Steve announced that the design for the over-street banners is set. The Municipal Light Plant has approved the location of the Downtown banner, but the location of the South Ashburnham banner over Route 101 is still being determined.

Steve went with Steve Nims to the Sportsmen's Club to view areas that will need to be cleared of snow, and to see the best location for the bonfire. The Highway Department will supply lighting for the skating pond. The skating and bonfire are planned to take four hours, from 3:30 to 7:30.

Patty will e-mail the Sportsmen's Club to keep them apprised of our plans and progress.

The Committee proofread the program leaflet for the Birthday Bash, and made suggestions.

The Time Capsule Subcommittee reported having received an anxious letter from a member of the Eisenlohr family in Georgia, asking about our plans for the grand opening of the Century Box. George responded, assuring her that plans are indeed moving forward. The box was originally given by Louis Eisenlohr, with plans for its grand opening. After Eisenlohr died, in 1922, the plans were taken over by his friend, George Hoffman, who sent out invitations to the centennial opening of the box, promising that attendees would each receive a medallion cast from retrieved parts of the battleship Maine. The box reputedly contains the medallions.

Box-opening guests are being invited from as far away as Georgia, Maryland and Oregon. The committee plans to offer the guests a continental breakfast in a tent on Town Hall property, and to have an Oakmont musical ensemble play American music for the event. An official proclamation will be read by one of the Selectmen, and treasures from the box can be displayed in the locked glass cabinet in Town Hall's lobby. Master of Ceremonies for the event will be Ed Ryan. The special, invited guests will be given a buffet luncheon at 12:30. Presumably McNally's new restaurant will be open by then; Steve will contact Mr. McNally about luncheon plans.

Bob suggested we draw up a list of historical Ashburnham citizens who have distinguished themselves in one way or another by their actions or inventions. He will ask Tyna to supply names and accomplishments, from Historical Society records.

Pat stated that the Ecumenical Church Service will be on Sunday evening, April 12th.

The next committee meeting will be January 6th at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall basement room. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

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