

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Minutes of January 20, 2015 Meeting

Present: Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer. Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Bob Fichtel, Karen Mattus and Linda Ramsdell. Guest, Ron Newman.

Steve called the Meeting to order at 6:49 PM.

The Secretary's report for January 6th was accepted as written. The Treasurer had nothing new to report.

Follow-up on the Skating and Christmas Tree Bonfire: Everyone seemed pleased with the whole celebration; Patty reported that the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club is interested in making this an annual event. She will send a thank-you letter to everyone who helped make the skating and bonfire possible. Especially appreciated was the volunteer labor of Walter Hansen, who manned the snow-blower for several hours.

Steve was urged by the committee to submit an invoice for expenses incurred by Plantscape for bonfire preparations.

An updated "Event Fact Sheet" was distributed to the committee.

250th Birthday Bash, February 22nd

Tyna Donelson has sent out invitations.

The Historical Society will have a display on tables in the lobby.

Bob will set up a Power Point projection on the stage screen, with "Ashburnham Trivia Questions" to entertain people as they come in and are seated.

The second half of the program will begin with announcement of the raffle winner of the antique pitcher. The raffle ticket holder must be present in order to win.

The children's chorus will lead the audience in singing "Happy Birthday" to the Town.

The Birthday Cake will be served in the lobby, but people can be seated in the cafeteria.

Patty will pick up four-ounce bottles of water and enough coffee for 200 cups. She has coffee percolators, and Pat will borrow two large carafes from the church, for hot water for tea.

Patty will bring 400 paper plates, and plastic baggies for take-home leftover cake. We will need plastic table cloths, paper napkins, plastic forks, hot drink cups, and gloves for serving the food.

Bob will pick up the Briggs School children's artwork on the theme, "What Ashburnham Means to Me" on February 12th. The artwork is to be mounted on the walls of the lobby. We need to find out what mounting procedure is best, to avoid pulling paint off walls with tape. Bob suggested that the best of the children's artwork be placed in the new Time Capsule.

Printed announcements of the event will be tucked in people's grocery bags.

Committee members will need to go to Oakmont on Saturday the 21st, at 1:00, to mount the artwork and decorate the stage. Stage decorations should include balloons and large, gift-wrapped boxes. Oriental Trading online has inexpensive large boxes.

We will arrange for school custodian coverage on Saturday at 1:00 and Sunday from 11:00.

At our table in the lobby we will be selling Schoolboy statuettes, car magnets, baseball caps, cups, and decals.

We need to be sure that the person in the projection booth knows how to run the equipment.

Senior citizens will be offered transportation to the event by MART/COA bus.

Postcards are scheduled to go out to the town next week.

Other Business

George reported that fifty or sixty men have already signed up for the "Brothers of the Brush" contest. Some of the men may wish to keep their beards for the parade in September. George will submit an invoice for his expenses for the "Brothers of the Brush" T-shirts. He plans to have a series of suppers as fundraisers for the event. George has also been doing advance publicity on radio and Facebook.

The committee's Tuesday, January 27th* meeting will be devoted to Parade planning. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary

* Post Script: The January 27th meeting was postponed on account of the blizzard that day. The meeting will take place Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:00 PM, in the basement meeting room, Town Hall.