

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee
Minutes of February 3, 2015 Meeting

Present: Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary. Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson, Bob Fichtel, and Linda Ramsdell. Guest, Kaitlyne Bilodeau, representing State Representative Jonathan Zlotnik.

Steve called the Meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

The Secretary's report for January 20th was accepted as written. The Treasurer was absent from the meeting. [Minutes up to 7:55 PM were taken by Steve Coswell]

Parade Plans

The committee will consult with Cindy Darcy about a Float Workshop.

Bob Fichtel will follow up with Don Lang & Ron Newman antique for cars.

Bands may include a Navy band. We currently have slated Police and Fire Department bands, Oakmont Regional High School Band, and a Groton Fife and Drum Corps. It remains to be seen if Cushing Academy will be able to provide the Boston Crusaders Seniors Drum & Bugle Corps for the parade.

The committee needs to determine who will be the lead color guard.

We should have twenty-seven volunteers to help on Parade Day.

We hope to borrow bleachers for the Reviewing Stand from Monty Tech, to seat dignitaries.

We need to confirm whether kids' sports teams - Little League and soccer – will be marching.

Necessary paperwork will include contracts with some participating groups. The committee needs to check with the town on insurance for the parade.

Entertainment groups should include clowns, maybe a "scarecrow brigade" or "witch brigade".

Parade Route abutters need to be notified well in advance.

(Secretary Pat Frederick arrived late and began taking the minutes at 7:55)

The Committee discussed pros and cons of having a "King" and "Queen" of the parade.

If we want to provide shuttle transportation, possible vehicles include the Council on Aging bus, MART bus, and two buses from Cushing Academy.

Designated parking areas for attendees include St. Denis and Ashburnham Community Church parking lots; Pleasant Street; Cushing; Briggs School; Landry Field; Corey Road; Corey Hill Road; behind Town Hall; Platts Road and Turnpike Road.

There needs to be clear signage, designating both Parking and No Parking areas along the route. Signs should be posted several days before the parade, so local people know what to expect.

Participants setting up in the Library field staging area will process down Water Street to Main Street, thence to Central Street. Groups assembled at the Town Barn staging area will fall in line to march from Puffer Street up Maple Street, left onto Rte. 12/Main Street, then left again onto Rte. 101 South/Central Street.

Cushing Academy has been given the parade schedule, with the recommendation that any activities they plan that day should be over by 11:00 AM.

Birthday Bash Plans

Steve showed a draft copy of the program leaflet for the Birthday Bash. Barbara reminded the Committee that the Ashburnham Cultural Council grant is specifically to cover such expenses as printing, so we can well afford to have the program leaflet printed on good paper stock.

Steve read the program order aloud, asking for comments or questions. Lorraine at ExPressive Printing will insert the Cultural Council logo and acknowledgment on the page listing sponsors.

Stage decorations will consist of balloons; Barbara has found some large balloons shaped like numbers, so we can have the numerals "250" at the back of the stage, with garlands of balloons in Town colors on either side.

We have already arranged to borrow bunting from Winchendon, used in their parade. Perhaps we can pick that up in time for the Birthday Bash, for indoor use, rather than waiting until spring, when we are planning to use it out-of-doors.

Steve will make sure that Oakmont Principal David Uminski has information on the Birthday Bash, to be circulated to Ashburnham school parents via the schools' social media network.

Committee members will meet again next Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00, to firm up Birthday Bash plans.

Members will set up for the celebration at Oakmont on Saturday, February 21st at 1:00 p.m. This should include a run-through of the Historical Video with narration.

Other Business

George gave a slide show on his laptop, of the Bonfire.

George also shared an invitation from Royalston's 250th Anniversary Committee, for members of our committee to attend their fundraising supper and Hoe-Down, the evening of February 21st, at the Elks Club in Orange. We should send at least a delegate, even though it is the night before our Birthday Bash.

The Time Capsule subcommittee will meet Monday, February 9th at Tyna's home.

The Birthday Bash subcommittee will meet Thursday, February 5th to preview Betsy Dillbeck's video.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary