

## **Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Minutes of February 17, 2015 Meeting**

**Present:** Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer. Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson, Bob Fichtel and Linda Ramsdell. Guest: Marc Barrieault, Advertising Sales Representative from The Gardner News.

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

The Secretary's report for February 3<sup>rd</sup> was accepted as written.

Copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed. The largest expense for the Bonfire was for police coverage. Barb reminded the committee that printing expenses for the upcoming Birthday Celebration will be reimbursed by the Cultural Council grant. George presented his expenses for the Brothers of the Brush competition, mostly for tee shirts for competitors.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as written.

Mr. Barrieault distributed samples of full-page and double-page displays, advertising other local towns' special events. He explained that The Gardner News would be responsible for canvassing Ashburnham businesses for the paid advertisements that support such coverage; this will not cost the Celebration Committee anything. The first event to receive such publicity should be the Family Fun Day, June 27<sup>th</sup>; publicity for the Parade can be considered at a later date. The Gardner News staff plans such pages three months in advance. Mr. Barrieault will set up a date for the Family Fun Day page(s) at the March staff meeting, and will contact George two weeks before the ad is to appear, to get such details as schedule of events, and major sponsors. George has supplied The Gardner News's Ashburnham correspondent, Joseph Benavidez, with information on Family Fun Day.

### **Birthday Celebration Plans**

Everything is arranged for this Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup>: the custodian will open the doors at 1:00, for our members to set up for Sunday's party. Bob showed the committee some of the Briggs School children's artwork and essays, to be mounted on the walls. Two essay topics were assigned: "What Ashburnham Means to Me", and "Ashburnham, Past, Present and Future". Bob has bought tape for posting the children's work.

Free raffle tickets will be handed out at the door on Sunday, and Schoolboy statuettes, hats, and car magnets will be available for sale. The Birthday Cake is going to be a grand design. Barbara has bought condiments and decorations. The programs are all set to be printed, and Patty will pick up the food tomorrow. Pat will borrow two coffee urns from Ashburnham Community Church, and take them to Oakmont on Saturday.

We need to be sure the Council on Aging's MART van can drive people from Ashley Court.

George reported that Donna D'Apolito will have a Brothers of the Brush table.

### **Parade Plans**

Susie has received information on the "Clowning for Kids Foundation". They do not charge for an appearance, but welcome donations. A group of ten to eighteen people, men, women and children, they would be a nice addition to both our Family Fun Day and the Parade. Susie will book them, and find out what hours they would be available for the Fun Day. Susie read aloud her list of participants in the Parade. Steve asked Susie to draw up a budget for each participating group, and for all the absolute basic needs, such as trash disposal and porta-potties..

Patty will contact Cindy Darcy about a Float Workshop, ideally to be held in April or May, to give participants plenty of time to work on their floats. We need to find out whether the workshop can be held indoors, or whether it needs to be held in a Town garage, for hands-on introduction to a flatbed truck. Perhaps we can have Cindy Darcy meet with us in March.

Susie took a photo of the Committee, to be printed in the annual Town Report, along with Steve's report on the Committee's activities in 2014, and plans for 2015.

Steve, George and Pat will meet with the Ashburnham Business Council on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30, at Beth Wojnas's home, to plan which responsibilities for Family Fun Day will be assumed by the Celebration Committee, and which, by the Business Council.

The Committee will meet again on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00, in the basement meeting room, Town Hall, following another joint meeting at 5:30, in the same room, with the Ashburnham Business Council and the William J. Bresnahan Scouting and Community Center Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia H. Frederick*

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary