

## **Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee March 17, 2015**

### **Present:**

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

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:59.

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

Patty handed out copies of her Treasurer's report. The committee was apprised of the expenses for the Birthday Celebration, many of which will be reimbursed by our grant from the Ashburnham Arts Council under the auspices of the Massachusetts Arts Council.

Barbara will present the invoices to the Arts Council, as required.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as written.

Town Counsel Deborah Phillips will have an answer by next week, to the Committee's question on legal ownership of the contents of the Time Capsules, once they are opened.

George has been consulting with Donna D'Apolito on the Brothers of the Brush contest. The plan is to have contestants pose for a photo June 27<sup>th</sup> on the front steps of Town Hall, then receive their awards onstage at the Community Day event.

George has been looking into designs and production of a commemorative flag for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration, as was done for the 200<sup>th</sup> and 225<sup>th</sup> celebrations. He has been comparing prices offered by various flag makers. He said possibly as many as fifty flags were made for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, sold to local individuals and businesses. The Historical Society will pay for the first flag.

In the absence of evidence that the commemorative medallions made from pieces of the battleship Maine survived burial in a time capsule that was destroyed, we should have some medallions made up to give the special guests at the opening of the Time Capsules, June 6<sup>th</sup>. George has been consulting a company that makes such items, in solid bronze or solid silver. Bob handed around a medallion from the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a sample. The new medallion should have an inscription honoring Messrs. Hoffman and Eisenlohr, donors of the Time Capsules.

George has a letter confirming that the Navy band will take part in our Parade, if not called upon by the Federal government to play elsewhere on that date.

George also distributed copies of a proposed program of events for June 6<sup>th</sup>. Patty and Tyna Donelson have been receiving acceptances to the ceremony. Cushing Academy has also received some. The Time Capsule subcommittee will meet next week at Tyna's house.

### **Parade Plans**

Bob has received a contract for Miss Massachusetts' participation in the parade. Her fee for the appearance is \$300., plus \$50. for registration and \$75.00 for mileage. Asked to choose which type of outfit she should wear, the Committee decided on "formal attire, with crown".

In the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade, Miss Massachusetts 1965 had a whole float. The committee discussed the possibility of Miss Massachusetts 2015 riding in a red convertible.

The committee needs to advertise that we are not limiting the number of floats! All are welcome. There seems to have been some misunderstanding on this point. The Float Workshop needs to be scheduled soon!

Patty handed around a proof copy of the invitation she will be sending prospective guests at the parade, to be seated on the reviewing stand. Bob recommended minor changes to the wording; otherwise, fine.

Barbara has been talking with a "Clowning for Kids Foundation" representative. They will be present at the parade, but not at Community Day in June. They can supply four men to conduct a workshop on clowning, if we can guarantee a minimum of fifteen adult participants. This might lead to some townspeople gaining a hobby for future use. Charging for participation in the workshop would help defray the workshop presenters' fee. Attendees would need to commit to participating in Celebration events, if we sponsor the workshop.

Susie reported that two bagpipe bands and a fife and drum corps have signed up to be in the parade. With the Navy band and Oakmont's Marching Spartans, we will have five bands, one for each division of the parade.

Each division *must* have radio communication, with a supervisory person at the front and another at the rear of the division, to marshal the participants in each division as they line up.

The next meeting of the committee will be devoted to parade planning.

#### **Other Business**

The Family Skate event at Cushing was well attended, and went smoothly.

Thank-you letters will be going out to those who contributed to the success of the Birthday Celebration on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

George reported that the American Legion would like to play a more active part in the anniversary observances, such as having a color guard at the capsule opening. They could also hand out small American flags there. The Legion is planning on float presence in the parade. George will work with a Legion representative, planning ways for them to be involved.

Pat reported on her meeting with the Ecumenical Committee; the Ecumenical service, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00, will be at Ashburnham Community Church. Pastor Chuck will deliver a sermon drawn from an historical sermon by the Reverend Mr. Cushing, first pastor of the church. There will not be a choir, but there will be hymn-singing by the congregation. We will see about having a fellowship gathering across the street at Father Lacey Hall of St. Denis Church.

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, (probably at 7:00 PM), Cushing and Oakmont music groups will present a joint concert at Oakmont, in celebration of Cushing's 150<sup>th</sup> and Ashburnham's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

Steve has reserved the bouncy castle, Velcro wall and dunk tank, and a snow-cone machine from FunStuf Rentals; Richie Wright at the hardware store is providing popcorn and a popcorn machine for Community Day.

Mr. Brandon, of Brandon Funeral Home, has asked Patty what we need. We can offer him several choices of sponsorship; the committee discussed various possibilities.

Dwayne Davis of "Novelty Express" was the sole vendor at Winchendon's parade last year. The committee recommended that he have no more than four carts at our parade.

Dottie Munroe has expressed a willingness to include photography in her "Paint the Town" art show in October.

Bob showed the committee his updated diagram, printed on a Google Earth aerial view, locating Community Day events and attractions on the Oakmont campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. The committee will meet next on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM in the basement meeting room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia H. Frederick*

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary