

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee March 31, 2015

Present:

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

Guest: Julie Olivari

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

The Secretary's report for March 17th was accepted as written.

Steve gave Patty several printed forms she will need for paying bills relating to Community Day, June 27th. We have made our downpayment to Atlas PyroVision for the fireworks display; Patty must be prepared to pay the balance soon. Other expenses will be for FunStuf amusements and BMX Sports.

Patty read aloud her Treasurer's report on balances in various accounts, and moneys received and spent. She has mailed Parade invitations to the appropriate dignitaries at national and state levels. Invitations to local officials will be sent next.

Time Capsule Opening Ceremony

Tyna reported that her draft of the program for the Time Capsule Opening is nearly complete. She has mailed the invitations to the Time Capsule Opening ceremony. The Lions Club breakfast on the day of the opening will be on behalf of the event. Invitees to the breakfast include Cushing Academy alumni/ae who will be in town at that time for class reunions. The Committee needs to clarify whether, and to what extent, the Lions plan to publicize the breakfast, or whether publicity should be the responsibility of the Committee.

Steve read aloud his draft letter to Cushing Academy concerning the apparent loss of the original medallions, made from salvaged metal from the battleship Maine, and buried in a time capsule on Cushing's campus. The fate of the medallions is unknown; the Cushing time capsule was crushed during construction excavations for the school's library building. The committee has drawn up a design for commemorative coins and has looked into having them cast, to be given to the people who were supposed to receive the medallions, and who will be expecting such a gift. The purpose of the letter is to find out if Cushing will agree to cover the expense of producing the replacement coins.

Parade Plans

Susie asked about various groups to be invited to participate in the parade, such as local agriculturalists, and possibly the Wachusett Brewery. Bob told Patty we will need to make a downpayment soon for the participation of Miss Massachusetts. The committee will dedicate one upcoming meeting to Parade planning.

Community Day Plans

Steve and George reported on their recent meeting at Oakmont with the school's Principal, Dave Uminski, Head Custodian, Mike Parenteau, Grounds Director, Charles Bernard, and Athletic Director Erik Dawley, along with Ashburnham Fire Chief Paul Rekos and Westminster Fire Captain Kyle Butterfield, concerning the best locations on the campus for various activities and attractions on June 27th. Bob's proposed diagram of possible locations was revised, according to Mr. Bernard's input. Oakmont wants us to have three custodians on duty during the day and evening.

Atlas PyroVision needs us to set a rain date for their show, within forty-eight hours of the original date. The committee recommended Sunday, June 28th. Steve read aloud the contract, setting forth extra charges for any change in date, according to how much forewarning is given. Atlas will arrange their schedule in direct contact with the fire department, which *must* be present from the time the fireworks are unpacked from their boxes. The fireworks will be set off from Overlook campus, rather than the field at Oakmont. The Atlas representative judged the upper campus more practical to isolate for their security zone.

Steve is looking into insurance for the day's events, and will consult with trash disposal companies. Spuria's has always provided a dumpster for Downtown Day.

We need to meet with the police, about traffic direction and parking.

The various food servers for the day will need to obtain permits from the Health Department. David Stone will have his Boy Scouts help deliver take-out chicken barbecue meals to ticket-holding drive-up customers in front of the high school.

The committee discussed locations for the tent and the performance stage, and parking issues, since there can be no parking at Overlook. We need to look into providing buses, from Cushing and the Council on Aging, to ferry attendees from remote parking areas at Briggs School and elsewhere. Important issues to be settled include electrical connections and lighting for performers, although that close to the Solstice, there will be daylight longer.

Steve went over the schedule of activities for the day, including set-up time Friday evening and early Saturday morning. All committee members will be assigned responsibilities for the day.

Other Business

The joint Oakmont/Cushing students' music program in celebration of Ashburnham's 250th and Cushing's 150th anniversaries will take place at Oakmont, Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 PM.

Pat reported that she and Joan Webber have been working on the Ecumenical Church Service to be held at the Ashburnham Community Church on Sunday, April 12th at 3:00 PM.

Julie Olivari proposed that the committee order cotton tee shirts from her shop, as a fundraising item for the celebration events. She offered a choice of colors, of which the committee can choose one. The shirts would have a bright colored silkscreen design on either front or back, as we decide. The price she quoted is below the price offered by Atlas for their tee shirts, and the quality is reputed to be the same or better. The committee needs to discuss this further. She also raised a good question about the possible need for vendors' licenses, since Oakmont field is largely in Westminster – a town noted for its insistence on vendors' licenses.

The committee will meet next on April 14th at 7:00, and jointly with the Ashburnham Business Council, April 21st at 5:30. Both meetings will be held in the conference room in Town Hall basement. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary