

## **Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee, June 30, 2015**

### **Present:**

Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen, Pat Frederick, Secretary, Patty Johnson, Treasurer; Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson, and Ron Newman.

Guest: Peter Jasinski of the Sentinel.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

The committee voted to accept the secretary's minutes of the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, as written.

There was no formal Treasurer's report.

### **House and Garden Tour Plans**

Barb will register tour participants at \$10.00 each, supplying them with maps of the featured homes, between 12:30 and 1:00 PM at the Historical Society building. The tour will be from 1:00 to 4:00, ending with a garden party at the Rice-Flanagans' with beverages (beer, wine, non-alcoholic punch, or iced tea) served by Steve and George, wearing their 1915 outfits. Barb and George are publicizing the event.

### **Community Day Review**

Steve expressed pride in the committee's ability to work together efficiently and produce such a successful event. Committee members agreed that the day went as smoothly as we could have been hoped for.

George has made some personal phone calls, thanking people who contributed to the success of the day. The committee drew up a list of people to receive written thanks for their part in the day's success. Karen will write the letters.

The Gardner News carried our full-page ad on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

A video of the fireworks finale is on our FaceBook page, along with photos of many of the day's attractions.

### **Softball Tournament**

George reported on his communications with the Royalston team's coach. They have recruited eleven players and have been practicing, to get in shape. George has recruited twenty-eight Ashburnham players. Royalston is providing the refreshments for the Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> game at their Fishing Club on Route 68, beginning at 5:30 or 6:00 PM. Ashburnham will supply the refreshments for the Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> game at Oakmont's softball field. The Sunday game is scheduled to begin at 2:00 PM.

We will ask the Bresnahan Scout and Community Center people if they want to be involved in preparing and serving the food, even though it will not be a fundraising opportunity for them, since the food is to be made available free of charge. We will also ask OOMPA if we can purchase any bags of chips and such, left from Community Day.

George has bought tee shirts for the players, with numbers on the backs, the American flag, and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.

The winning team will receive a framed certificate.

**Parade Float Workshop**

We need to provide each participant at the July 14<sup>th</sup> workshop with a packet including float construction regulations and an instruction manual. Patty volunteered to make copies of the printed material for the packets. Susie has received eight or nine applications so far. She will notify the applicants of the workshop, and George will publicize it on FaceBook.

**Parade Plans**

Next week's meeting, July 7<sup>th</sup>, will be devoted to Parade planning. We need to draw up an outline for the order of the participants in each of the four divisions.

Royalston has invited us to participate in their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade, September 20<sup>th</sup>. We should go as clowns, some perhaps riding a moped or tricycle.

Gibby Lashua will drive his antique car in our parade, - the vehicle in longest continual use in Ashburnham.

Grand Marshals Bill Fichtel and Rachael Whitney, nonagenarian WWII veterans, should be invited to wear their uniforms, and should ride in an open convertible of suitable vintage.

Ron will see to providing an open car for Miss Massachusetts to ride in.

A drone camera operator will be making a bird's-eye video of the parade. We need to arrange for golf carts for committee members shuttling among divisions during lineup before the parade. We also need to look into supplying bleachers for the reviewing stand at the Public safety Building.

The Parade Registration form is posted on our FaceBook page, "Ashburnham's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM. Next week's meeting will be on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, in Town Hall's basement meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Patricia H. Frederick*  
Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary