

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Meeting, August 18, 2015

Present:

Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson, Bob Fichtel, Karen Mattus and Linda Ramsdell.

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

Barbara DiVito's minutes of the August 4th meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer Patty Johnson was unable to attend the meeting, so there no treasurer's report.

Plans for Oktoberfest, October 17th

Sean McNally has agreed to sponsor our Oktoberfest at the gazebo, Winchester Park, 6:00 to 11:00 PM. He will take care of food and drink details. We will need to supply two tents, one as the beer tent, and tables and chairs for guests. Sean has been asked to supply simple foods, such as chicken fingers and brats. We also need to arrange for police coverage, trash receptacles and porta-potties. Barb will phone this week to hire the band, Gale Force. The police can supply floodlights for the parking area. Lighting at the tents should be festive, but not too bright.

Parade Plans

Tyna is preparing a black-and-white postcard to be sent to all town residents, announcing the parade. Postcards will be printed by ExPressive. New over-street banners are needed for the final events of the year. Most prominent, in red lettering, should be the Parade, then the Art Show, Hike up Mt. Watatic and Oktoberfest. The hike will be on the morning of October 17th, with Oktoberfest that evening.

Abutters to the Parade staging area and along the parade route, must be given advance warning of road closings and noise. The staging area will extend up Route 12 as far as Lashua Road and will include Old Nims Road and High Street.

Pat reported that she delivered the printed invitation to Carol Chenevert to be co-Grand Marshal, along with Bill Fichtel. While not a veteran herself, Mrs. Chenevert is a longtime member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary (her late husband was a veteran); she also served on Town Hall staff for many years. Mrs. Chenevert said she would be honored to serve as co-Grand Marshal, and the committee voted unanimously to approve her in that capacity.

Steve and Susie will speak with Police Chief Loring Barrett about the police department's involvement in parade security.

Barb has hired a group of costumed performers for the parade, and will coordinate a group of Ashburnham residents who have volunteered to dress as clowns.

Steve has reserved two sets of bleachers from Monty Tech for the VIPs at the Reviewing Stand. We should print more VIP passes like those we had for Community Day. We should have a printed program of the Parade by early September, listing the participants in order.

Tyna will see how many "Parking" and other signs she has from previous events. We need to have posters printed, to be placed around town. We are having signs printed to identify staging areas for each division of the parade. Barb will e-mail the participants, telling them where to report for staging.

Oakmont has a new sound system we can use for the reviewing stand, so the Master of Ceremonies can announce the participants as they appear.

The Navy Band is mandated to be at the head of the Parade. Pat will be in charge of hosting the 11:00 o'clock luncheon for the Navy Band, in the Community Church vestry. We will see if the church service can begin a few minutes early that Sunday, in order to allow time for the band to enter the building without disturbing the congregation upstairs.

Four golf carts have been reserved for Parade personnel to use during staging.

Next week's meeting, August 25th, will be devoted to consulting with groups entering floats in the parade, to see how their plans are progressing.

George will start the Parade by firing a cannon, as the traditional way Ashburnham parades are started.

September 9th will be the deadline for deciding the exact order of the Parade, and having the plan on paper.

Other Business

George reported that the Swim Day at the Lake Club on Saturday was highly successful. Performers arrived when expected, and everyone seemed happy.

He will fire the cannon at 10:00 AM tomorrow in honor of Ethel Anderson's 98th birthday. Mrs. Anderson told George she was extremely touched that the Town would remember her birthday, and although she has trouble getting out much, she will be able to hear the cannon very clearly, from her home.

Pat reported that a group of young New York-based musicians has been planning a Chamber Music Festival on Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, as part of Historical Piano Concerts' fall concert season. The Saturday concert will be a salute to Ashburnham's 250th Anniversary, featuring music by New England composers. While the committee cannot provide any financial support to this event, due to the conflict of interest with Pat as secretary of the committee and also manager of the Concert Series, the committee voted to let the musicians use the 250th Anniversary logo, which can be displayed on a congratulatory poster at the concert, and in advance advertising.

George was asked by Diane Hill if the committee would like to have a contra dance with Lois Somers' musical group and a caller as a November activity, in the Community Church vestry. Lois Somers told him to pick a date, sometime in early November before the Holiday Season starts. The committee recommended that Lois be invited to one of our meetings to describe the event to those unfamiliar with contra dancing, and that she give us a date that would work for her group. George will follow up with an e-mail to Lois.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25; motion accepted, meeting adjourned.

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