

## **Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Meeting, September 21, 2015**

### **Present:**

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

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.

The secretary's minutes for the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as written.

### **Parade Plans**

Patty distributed a budget printout, and updated a couple of estimated figures in light of actual recent billing.

Golf carts will be delivered to Tyna's driveway the day before the parade.

The Committee discussed print media publicity: the Fitchburg Sentinel will run a feature story about the parade on Thursday this week. Ads should be placed in the Sentinel and The Gardner News.

On the matter of sign placement, it was determined that street intersections are good, where drivers have to stop and can take a moment to read a sign. Several likely intersections were identified.

The U.S. Navy Band has been advertising our parade on their social media, inviting friends to attend. George has copied this page onto local interest groups' social media pages.

Patty read aloud a letter from Briggs School principal Andrea McGrath, concerning logistics for lining up students and teachers at Mr. McGrath's home at the corner of Main and High Streets. The Committee discussed ideal arrival time for the lineup.

Bob has arranged with Cushing for the Lancers' horses to wait on grass, not on pavement, until time to take their place in the parade.

The Bresnahan Scout and Community Center people will be serving food before the parade, at Northland Engineers' parking lot on Central Street.

Oakmont Student Council has requested permission to do a "boot" fund drive among the waiting crowd, downtown. The Committee voted to allow this, as long as they stop when the road closes at 12:45.

The Girl Scouts have invited George to give a talk on the history of Ashburnham, and on the parade, at their meeting this Wednesday evening.

Susie will brief the Carrigan family on their position, with their vintage jeep, in the parade.

The Ashburnham Department of Public Works has asked to have a truck in the parade. They can be in Division V.

George, Pat, and maybe Tyna will set up the tables for the Navy Band on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 or 5:00 PM at the Ashburnham Community Church.

The Committee discussed the best assignments for Monty Tech JROTC members: carrying banners, directing VIP parking behind Town Hall, monitoring pedestrian traffic at crosswalks, and marching in the parade.

Communication from Linda and Karen at the check-in point, to division coordinators at staging areas will be by two-way radio; however, cell phone communication may be needed as a backup. The Committee exchanged cell phone numbers.

The Committee went over the list of participants in each division, including consideration of logistics for some: the Grand Marshals will ride in a 1915 Touring Car, which will pick them up at the church after their luncheon with the Navy Band, and drive them to their Division I staging area. During the parade, their car will pull into a reserved parking space beside the reviewing stand, from which location they can watch the parade pass by. Their car will fall in line again at the very end of the parade.

Since it will not be known until the day of the parade, how many vintage cars will be participating, the cars will be assigned to the various divisions as they arrive.

George has arranged for the Brandon Funeral Home's vintage hearse to be horse-drawn, rather than displayed on a flatbed, or pulled by a truck. It is being assigned a place between the Library float and the Dance Center participants.

A logistical question to be addressed: how to assist the older veterans and Auxiliary members in taking their seats on the Deuce and a Half Army transport truck, which is four feet off the ground. George will look at some stair-steps owned by Tyna.

Patty still needs blurbs on participants, from division coordinators, so she can type a script for M.C. Dave Uminski.

At tomorrow evening's meeting, the Committee will decide whether a last-minute meeting on Saturday is in order.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

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