

## **Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Meeting, October 13, 2015**

### **Present:**

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

Guest: Sean McNally

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

The secretary's minutes for the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as written.

### **"Paint Ashburnham" Art Show**

Members reported that the Friday evening opening of the art show was well attended, and that there was a steady stream of viewers on Saturday afternoon. Art show organizer Dottie Munroe seemed pleased with the event.

### **Oktoberfest Plans**

The weather forecast for Saturday suggests it is likely to be chilly, which may impact attendance. Steve will buy advertisements for the event in the Gardner News, for publication on Thursday and Friday. The committee listed features to include in the ad, besides time and place: Free admission, positive ID required, opportunity to meet sponsor of the event, Sean McNally, proprietor of the new Tavern on Central Street. Music by Gibby Lashua, Northern Company band. Food, beer and wine; Adults only.

Sean will be serving several kinds of beer: Bud Lite, Coors Lite, and a seasonal beer from the Wachusett Brewery. Food will include bratwursts, hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers and fries.

Steve will bring trash barrels and ice water. Susie has arranged for porta-potties and police spotlights as well as police coverage.

Members of the committee will operate the ID machine, taking shifts during the evening. The machine needs electric power. Purchases will be on a cash-only basis.

The tents will be delivered and set up on Friday, on whichever area of Winchester Park the rental company determines to be most level. This will probably be where the Lions Club has set up its auction tent for past years' Downtown Days, near the playground and bandstand, rather than on the former site of the Veterans Memorial School building.

Tables, chairs and hay bales will be set up Saturday by members of the committee. Sean's staff will begin setting up his kitchen area on Saturday morning. Committee members should report to the festival at 5:00.

### **Upcoming Events**

Chris Gagnon will host the Hike up Mt. Watatic on Saturday morning. Public Safety officials are concerned about persons with insufficient hiking experience becoming injured or having medical issues on the climb. There have been too many calls for help recently, from Watatic climbers who have lost their way or needed to be carried down the mountain. Especially now, at the height of the foliage season, the mountain is likely to be crowded with hikers. We need to post a sign, "Ashburnham Hike Begins Here".

We should begin publicizing the Contradance, coming up November 7<sup>th</sup>. Lois Somers is contacting regular participants of contradances where her band has played in the area.

### **Other Concerns**

Sylvia Turcotte is beginning to plan the layout for the Annual Report. She has asked for photos from all the year's celebration events, for a special section at the beginning of the report. The committee needs to go through the group scrapbook and individual members' photos and decide which images best represent each month's events.

It was suggested that any remaining committee funds at the end of the Celebration year be designated for a new Time Capsule (which will require its own committee). Another suggestion was to purchase new markers for the headstones of Revolutionary War veterans in the old cemetery.

The thank-you note from Parade Grand Marshal Carol Chenevert was read aloud to the committee. The note will be added to the Celebration Year scrapbook.

George, arriving late from another meeting, told the committee that a reporter from the Gardner News is going to write a feature article about the Oktoberfest.

Committee members who attended the Selectmen's meeting last week reported that the Selectmen expressed thanks on behalf of the Town, for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee's hard work and efficiency in organizing the Parade, and all the preceding events through the year.

The committee decided that with all but one of the year's events having taken place as of next week, the committee need meet only twice a month, having met weekly since the beginning of September. The next meeting will be next Tuesday, October 20, at 7:00 PM in the basement meeting room at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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