

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Meeting, January 5, 2016

Present:

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

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.

The secretary's minutes for the November 3rd meeting were accepted as written. The committee did not meet in December.

Patty reported on the balance of funds after payment of final bills for the Anniversary Year. This balance must either be devoted to a purpose closely related to the 250th Anniversary Celebration, or be returned to the Town's general funds. The committee discussed possible uses for the remaining funds. After considering several proposals from members, the committee concluded that the best application would be to a new time capsule, maybe two, to be opened twenty-five, fifty or one hundred years from now.

George suggested that a trust fund be established for the Town's next important anniversary, to provide seed money for our future counterparts. This committee readily acknowledges the tremendous advantage of having had the support of the Hoffman Fund.

The committee voted that George be chairman of the new Time Capsule Committee, working between now and June 30, 2016 – the end of the fiscal year – to coordinate plans for the next Time Capsule or capsules. We need to ask the Selectmen how to set up a trust fund to provide seed money for future time capsule/anniversary celebrations.

The plan is to reuse the original Time Capsule box, in recognition of its historical significance. The committee hopes that Oakmont or Monty Tech students will be able to repair some damage caused by opening the box. The engraved brass plaque from the lid can be turned over and a new inscription engraved on the reverse side, with a note in the box calling attention to the original inscription. A second box may need to be purchased.

Contents of the box will include a Schoolboy statuette, photos of the Downtown as it looks today, Briggs School children's artwork displayed at the Birthday Bash, and other memorabilia. The committee will ask for suggestions from persons who have been involved in the 250th celebration events. Such perishable items as batteries cannot be included, and one wonders if technology for playing CDs or DVDs will be available in 2115.

Tyna brought the scrapbook of Celebration-related material to the meeting, and Patty brought unsold Celebration magnets, decals and baseball caps. Bob will pick up over-the-street banners and any light pole banners still at the Light Plant, and give them to their sponsors. Remaining Schoolboy statuettes are to be given to the Historical Society to be sold as fundraisers for their nonprofit organization. Steve will reclaim the borrowed bunting from the library and Town Hall, and return it to Winchendon.

Steve will e-mail committee members a draft of his essay for the Annual Town Report, for additions or corrections.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM. The next meeting will take place on February 2, at 6:30 PM at the home of Tyna Donelson, 21 Chapel Street.

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