

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Meeting, February 2, 2016

Present:

Steve Coswell, Co-Chairman; 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 6:35 PM.

Steve read aloud the secretary's minutes of the January 5th meeting, which were accepted as written.

Patty reported on the balance of funds in the treasury.

Steve then read aloud his account of the year's 250th Anniversary Celebration activities, to be published in the Town Report. After a couple of minor corrections, the report was enthusiastically approved. The committee congratulated Steve on his literary effort.

Proposals were made for items to be included in the new Century Time Capsule, to be ceremonially sealed in June: Souvenirs of the 250th celebration will include a hat, magnets, printed programs of events, a thank-you note such as was sent to sponsors, a commemorative medallion, and a Schoolboy statuette. Other suggested material: a copy of the 2015 Town Report; photos of the town as it looks today; a vintage tie-tack depicting the powder house, from a previous anniversary celebration; items from the original time capsule; and Fire and Police Department embroidered patches.

Patty will contact Doug Briggs about setting up a trust fund providing seed money for the 350th Celebration. This use of the money will probably need to be approved by the Selectmen, and the fund established with the help of Town Counsel. The amount of \$10,000. from remaining funds was agreed upon for the trust fund, less whatever set-up fee is owed to Town Counsel and/or a bank. Other remaining funds will be needed to pay for restoring the original time capsule box so it can be used again.

Pat will ask the Ashburnham Business Council about having the dedication of the new time capsule on Downtown Day in June.

The committee discussed the future of events presented by the committee in 2015: several activities were so popular, townspeople urged that they become annual customs. George (who was ill and could not attend the meeting) would like the Historical Society to repeat the House and Garden tour; Pat and Susie reported that the Community Church would like to have art shows like the one organized by Dottie Munroe. It was suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee be approached about future Oktoberfests and bonfires.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. The committee will meet again Tuesday, March 1st at 6:30 in the meeting room in Town Hall's basement.

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