

## **Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Meeting, March 1, 2016**

### **Present:**

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

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

The secretary's minutes of the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting were accepted as written.

### **Old Business**

Bob reported on having delivered the committee's proposal at the Selectmen's February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, concerning the application of remaining 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration funds toward both a Century Time Capsule to be opened in 2116, and festivities for the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town. The 250<sup>th</sup> Committee wishes to use some of the remaining funds for a new time capsule, and for the reuse of the 1916 time capsule. The Committee also proposes placing \$10,000.00 in a trust fund to be used by a 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee, recognizing the advantage the present committee enjoyed, of funds left in 1916 which paid for the fireworks show on Community Day, 2015.

One selectman expressed approval of the proposal; another remained neutral on the matter, while the third wondered if the townspeople would approve such allocations of funds, given the present need for road repairs. Town Manager Douglas Briggs stated that the proposed uses of funds would need to be included as a warrant article for the townspeople to vote on, at Town Meeting in May. Mr. Briggs expressed his personal thanks to the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee for the success of the Anniversary Year's celebration events.

### **New Business**

The committee needs to begin firming up specific plans immediately for a Time Capsule event to be held in June. George handed out his own printed proposal for a celebration to include the burial of one time capsule and placement of another in the Town vault, followed by a supper party and fireworks. The committee discussed each of the three phases of George's proposal: size, material and cost of a new time capsule to be buried close to Town Hall, with an identifying plaque on the building; reuse of the 1916 time capsule; details of a sit-down meal with tent, tables and chairs; extent and location of fireworks; ticket price for attendance; number of attendees to include; and necessary related expenses. The meal should pay for itself, rather than use any of the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration funds.

Before the next meeting, George will meet with Mr. Briggs concerning the wording of the Town Warrant article. Bob will look into the cost of renting a tent with tables and chairs for the supper party; and the best provider of food, probably a chicken barbecue. George will explore the possibility of a modest but satisfying fireworks display.

George moved that the committee pursue plans for the Time Capsule event, including dedication of the time capsules and presentation of a supper party and fireworks show. The committee voted to accept George's motion.

The committee will meet again in two weeks to begin firming up details of the event. These will involve budget, exact date and time, location, time capsules, bands, tents, food provider, fireworks, police and fire safety personnel, porta-potties, and dumpster.

George wants the Town Warrant to include reauthorization of the Ashburnham Light Infantry to fire off Town-owned cannon for special occasions and holidays. The last reauthorization, in 1991, needs to be renewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room at Town Hall.

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