

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Meeting, March 15, 2016

Present:

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

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

The secretary's minutes of the March 1st meeting were accepted as written.

Members were honored to learn that the Gardner Chamber of Commerce has chosen Ashburnham's 250th Committee to receive the Chamber's Municipal Recognition Award at their annual dinner, at the Colonial Hotel in Gardner on May 4th.

Steve reported on having attended the Ashburnham Business Council meeting during the previous hour: It was announced at the ABC meeting that this year's Downtown Day, the last Saturday in June, would be presented by the Lions Club and the Bresnahan Scout and Community Center. The event will be billed as "Community Day" because of the change in management, and some differences in format; chiefly, that crafters from out-of-town will be invited to sell their goods, rather than limiting participation to Ashburnham vendors.

The Bresnahan crew will again offer hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, etc., and the Lions Club will repeat their annual chicken barbecue. Chairman of the event will be Lions Club's George Simmons.

The 250th Committee expressed their appreciation that the Ashburnham Lions would provide and coordinate program details for the whole day. The Time Capsules can be dedicated as part of the larger event, in a ceremony that morning in front of Town Hall.

An e-mail update should be sent to the Eisenlohr and Hoffman relatives who attended the opening of the 1915 Time Capsule, describing plans for the new time capsules, and letting them know we would be delighted if any of them would care to attend this year's ceremony.

Time Capsule Suggestions

The committee will invite major sponsors of the 250th Celebration events if they would like to contribute mementos to the new time capsules. Invitations should be extended to the Athol Savings Bank, GFA Credit Union, Cushing Academy and Ron and Mary Reed. Steve will ask the public schools for yearbooks with photos of the students.

Besides items discussed at previous meetings, contents of the new capsules may include a few items of particular interest from the 1915 time capsule. Members of the Committee will consider writing letters to the people of Ashburnham a century from now, telling them what our times are like, and perhaps speculating on what their world will be.

For the actual dedication ceremony, we will need to provide a podium with microphone and speakers, a master of ceremonies to address the audience, and maybe a school band. The new time capsule to be purchased will be of a type designed to withstand long-term burial in the ground. Various sizes are available. At a future meeting, committee members will try packing items into cardboard boxes of sample sizes, to get an idea of how large a capsule is needed.

Because a fireworks display is probably impractical, Barbara suggested renting a large Ferris wheel for the day. This idea was greeted enthusiastically by those present. Barbara will look into the matter.

Steve will speak with George Simmons concerning the Committee's plans for the Time Capsule ceremony, and other ideas such as the Ferris wheel.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35. So moved. The next meeting will take place Tuesday, March 29th at 6:30, in the basement meeting room at Town Hall.

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