



East Windsor 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
February 2, 2017  
East Windsor Historical Society

The February 2, 2017 planning meeting for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of East Windsor met at the Osborn House of the East Windsor Historical Society.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Attendance:**

Present: Barbara Burnham, John Burnham, Ceil Donahue, Frank Dzieolziak, Tim Easter, Andy Hoffman, \*Peg Hoffman, \*Diane Lajoie, Bob Maynard, David Menard, Kirk Montstream, Kyle Moore, Tim Moore, Ian Neill, Debbie Talamini, \*Rebecca Talamini, \*Tom Talamini, \*Bill Thim, Mara Thim, \*Lynne Tracy-Thim, Samantha Wilson  
Absent: \*Paul Anderson, \*Jason Bowsza, \*Scott Morgan  
\*indicates steering committee members

**Minutes Reading:** The minutes from the January 19, 2017 meeting were not available for review; they will be reviewed with the February 2, 2017 meeting minutes on February 16, 2017.

The minutes from the January 5, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

**Bill Thim made a motion to approve the January 5, 2017 minutes. Tom Tallamini seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

We introduced ourselves at the start of the meeting.

At the casino meeting Rebecca was approached by the organizer of the 4 Town Fair; this is our year to host the fair. Rebecca is going to talk to Stuart Grant from our 4 Town Fair planning committee; Melissa Maltese is the contact person to organize the boy scouts, girl scouts, and 4H to collect the trash during the Fair's weekend.

We also received a suggestion that we should create a town mascot for the EW250.

The general feeling among the committee was that if we had a mascot, it should be a farm animal.

Samantha Wilson, the aquatics and youth supervisor at the parks and rec. department, joined our meeting tonight. Samantha had spoken to Laura Harney about our free-swim weekend idea for July 2018. Samantha had some great ideas about activities we could promote during that weekend: a large swim lesson to promote water safety, a preschool kids and parents' water safety lesson, a cannonball contest, a splash contest, noodle night, and Sundae Sunday. The Youth Center has expressed interest in helping with the swim weekend.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Time Capsule:** Nothing new to report this week; the committee believes they need about \$2000 for the time capsule and the stone marking it. The new time capsule will be ready by January 1, 2018 for our first event. The new capsule will be buried on Community Day (September 22, 2018). The 1968 time capsule is (tentatively)

scheduled to be dug up on January 1, 2018; once the details and possible obstacles (such as weather and ground conditions) are addressed, the official date will be chosen. The 1968 time capsule will be opened at a special town meeting on Saturday May 19, 2018.

Time Capsule Committee: \*Jason Bowsza, John Burnham, Tim Easter, Kirk Montstream, Chuck Riggott, and \*Bill Thim.

### **Planning Committee:**

Slogan Contest: The slogan contest is in progress. Debbie Talamini has sent reminders to the newspapers and schools that the February 10<sup>th</sup> deadline is approaching. Rebecca will add a reminder to Facebook.

Masquerade Ball: The \$250 deposit was sent to La Notte for our December 31, 2017 Masquerade Ball. Rebecca will confirm the price per person; we are expecting it to be about \$100/person.

Blues, Brews, and BBQ Event: Golden Gavel has expressed interest in having the Blues, Brews, and BBQ event in their parking lot. They want it in May; we want it in August.

Winter Festival: We are looking into a Sleigh Ralley for our February Winter Festival. **Laura was trying to contact Jim Stremper** from the Draft Horse Association. The Victorian Lady: The Victorian Lady presents an authentically reproduced period fashions/home life demonstration. She created demonstrations for different periods in history including the Civil War. The Victorian Lady charges \$395 for 1 hour or \$450 for 1 ½ hours. We are thinking this should be our big event for March held at the Warehouse Point Library. A deposit is not required to schedule it.

**Lynne Tracy-Thim made a motion that we allocate \$395 for the Victorian Lady fashion/home life demonstration and schedule it for March 2018. Bill Thim seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Reenactment: The Revolutionary War Reenactment group met with Bill, Lynn, and Ceil to review the Scout Hall grounds. They think the area near the pond at Scout Hall will be perfect. In addition to the military exercises, they have a cannon and tents that show displays on how people lived (medical care, cooking, washing, etc). The charge is \$1200 to \$1500 per day. They need potable water, an electric supply, and enough room for the reenactment, tents, and spectators.

The reenactment organizer have proposed a couple of events in addition to the skirmish: a flag ceremony with a 13 star or “Don’t Tread On Me” flag; Grant Stu may have a flag we can use. They would like to do a reenactment of Israel Bissle’s Ride Patriot Post Rider from Watertown MA to Philidelphia PA bringing news about the news to the colonists that the war had begun in Lexington, warning the colonists that war had begun. Israel Bissle was born in East Windsor in 1752; unlike Paul Revere, Bissle was not captured and completed his four day and 6 mile 345 mile mission notifying the colonists that war had started 4-19-1775. They are also willing to send a costumed reenactment performer to Broad Brook Elementary School in early June for a meet and greet to let the kids know about the coming reenactment. The reenactment will be a combined event with the Food Truck Fest at Scout Hall. The Parks and Rec. department will make sure there are no soccer games scheduled on the day of the event so we can use the parking lots. Once the date is set for the reenactment, Ceil can start to schedule the food trucks.

Vintage Baseball Game Exhibition: We were working with a Vintage Baseball club from Essex, MA, but they have withdrawn. Lynn found another vintage baseball club, the Wethersfield Red Onions. They play baseball under the historic rules and

have a table explaining the differences between the old and new games. The Wethersfield Red Onions will only charge us \$200 and do not require a deposit.

**Lynne Tracy-Thim made a motion to approve \$200 to schedule the Wethersfield Red Onions for a May 5, 2018 exhibition game at the East Windsor High School. Tom Talamini seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Free Swim Weekend: We are working with Samantha Wilson from the Parks and Rec. department to arrange a swim-free weekend at the Reservoir in July 2018.

Samantha has proposed many water safety activities for that weekend. We have also had a suggestion for either a bounce house or an obstacle course house.

Silent Movie: We have one quote for a silent movie with the live organ performance by Clark Wilson; it is pricey at \$1500 plus accommodations. We will work on getting other quotes.

Several groups in town have expressed interest in helping with the festivities. The Girl Scouts are going to have a mud run behind Golden Gavel in 2017; if it is successful, they will have it again in 2018. We will ask the boy scouts if they will help direct traffic at our reenactment event. The EW Police Commission has been holding a car show on Rt 5; they would like to continue in 2018. The Senior Center has an open house on June 28, 2017. They might like to host an event also.

Bob Leech has the Elephant that made its debut on the Republican Town Committee's float in the 1968 parade. Bob is willing to bring the elephant to some of our 2018 events including the parade. Lynne Tracy-Thim is trying to track down the 1968 donkey.

**We still need more volunteers.** This is going to be a very involved committee. If anyone wants to help organize one or more events, please email the 250<sup>th</sup> committee at [EW250@eastwindsorct.com](mailto:EW250@eastwindsorct.com). We may need to create subcommittees for some of our larger projects, such as the Masquerade Ball.

Planning Committee: Laura Harney, \*Diane Lajoie, Debbie Talamini, and \*Lynn Tracy-Thim. {Point Person: Lynn Tracy-Thim}

#### **Fundraising Committee:**

We are going to send a fundraising kickoff letter to the editor to the Courant and JI to notify the town that we are starting our fundraising. Fundraising letters for businesses have been printed. Drop them off in person to different business in town for a soft sell: this is what we are doing, here's how you can help. Present each person with the letter, a self-addressed envelope to the EW250 post office box and an EW250 pencil. There was concern about how we keep track of who was contacted. Since it is a soft sell; John suggested that it is ok if we approach the same business more than once.

There will be a mass mailing in April or May to the residents in town. We will use the voter's list to divide the work. The letter's theme will be "In case you haven't heard, East Windsor is turning 250, and we can use your help."

Andy Hoffman has contacted the Hartford Institute for Public Giving asking if they are willing to accept a proposal from us. Andy will need a list of the events and the costs associated with them for the proposal

Fundraising Committee: \*Jason Bowsza, John Burnham, Laura Harney, Andy Hoffman, and Kirk Montstream. Point people: John Burnham and Laura Harney

**Promotion and Merchandise Committee:** The merchandise from our second order has arrived. We have small and medium sweatshirts and 1000 pencils. We will send the pencils to the schools to distribute.

Ceil showed us a mock-up of a couple of hat design ideas. We decided the hats needed to state East Windsor Connecticut. The embroidered hats will cost about \$10

each. We will sell them for \$15.

**Bill Thim made a motion for the merchandise committee to purchase 100 hats. Tom Talamini seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Rebecca Talamini was contacted by a company out of Nevada about creating commemorative coins. The coins are 1 ½” in diameter. The initial set-up cost is the most expensive, once the die is finished, re-ordering coins costs less. A 1,500 coin order would cost about \$15,000; an initial half-quantity order would cost \$12,000. The lead time for making the coins is six weeks once the artwork is approved. We will look into the costs of containers to display the coins, and other possible coin vendors.

We discussed offering a six-coin set, one for each village and an EW250 coin. The village coins will have one side depicting something distinctive about that village on one side and the EW250 logo on the other. The EW250 coin will have the EW250 logo on one side and the town of EW seal on the other.

Afghans: We will check pricing to have 250<sup>th</sup> afghans created.

Promotion & Merchandise Committee: Ceil Donahue, Dan Donahue, Scott Grizey, \*Peg Hoffman, and \*Rebecca Talamini

**Parade and Picnic Committee:** Laura Harney had to step down for family reasons. We will look into attending community day meetings; they are held once a month. Committee: Laura Haney, \*Diane Lajoie and \*Rebecca Talamini

**Social Media Committee:** The Facebook page continues to gather more likes. Rebecca has the website current. We have a volunteer to create our Twitter and Instagram accounts, Mara Thim.

We still need to set up a disclaimer that any photos or videos submitted are available for the EW250 to use. Diane Lajoie is supposed to be getting it.

Keep sharing our Facebook page with your friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/EastWindsor250/>.

Social Media Committee: \*Diane Lajoie, Bob Maynard, and \*Rebecca Talamini

**Print & Advertising Committee:** Ceil called the JI to find out options and advertising prices. The stickers on the front of the newspaper cost \$1,200 for 25,000 stickers. You can have one day with 25,000 stickers or two days of 12,500 stickers. The artwork and layout of the sticker ads are free. We could do the sticker ads say one week before the reenactment then two days before.

Ceil also looked into the cost of a 4 color insert. We might want to do one with our events listed to kick off the festivities.

Print Advertising Committee: \*Paul Anderson and \*Peg Hoffman

The advertising and press committee will be responsible for releasing press releases to the local newspapers and radio stations. Our goal is to bring people from all over to visit East Windsor and see what we have to offer. The Advertising and Press Committee will also invite local reporters to cover our events throughout the year.

We still need to establish an Advertising and Press Committee.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**It is time to distribute an updated email address list.**

**Diane Lajoie made a motion to adjourn. Lynne Tracy-Thim seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Lajoie