

TOWN OF MILLBURY MINUTES

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Bicentennial Committee

Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm Street, Millbury

Attendees

Cynthia Burr
Carole Chiras
Roger Derosiers
Jeffrey Dore
Catherine Elliott
Frank Gagliardi
William Kane, Sr.

Paul Raffa
Denise Marlborough
Ronald Marlborough
E. Joseph McKeon
Robert Morton
Mary Lou Mulhane
Chris Sinacola
Annie Gasco
Peg Spang

Committee Members Absent

Joyce Ostrowski
Karen Gagliardi
Jamie Rembiszewski
Carol Vulter
Armand White
Lynn Winston

Bill opened meeting at 7:03 p.m. and asked for a motion to suspend regular order of business to accommodate Dick Vaughn with the Mummers from Philadelphia to give a presentation about their possible participation in the bicentennial parade next year.

Mr. Vaughn and his wife, Jen, presented a short history of the Mummers, with a display of selected costumes, and noted some of the other towns in Massachusetts where the band has performed, including Oxford, where he was present at that town's 250th anniversary celebration some 50 years ago. He has been a member for 59 years.

The band travels with between 28 and 34 members, with instruments and costumes. There are about 70 active members, who are not paid, but receive credits for each appearance to pay for their new costumes each year, in accordance with that year's theme.

The cost is estimated to be between \$6,000 and \$6,500 per day, but can and will often reduce that cost if host communities can donate or provide lodging, meals, etc., and added that many communities raise funds from businesses to sponsor a portion of the Mummers' appearance.

Rob moved to hire the Mummers for the June 22, 2013. Second by Cyndi. Unanimously approved with no further discussion.

Approval of minutes from May 2 meeting

Motion by Frank to accept minutes, second by Denise. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

No report at this meeting, Joyce Ostrowski being absent.

Updates

Roger reported meeting with police chief, head of DPW, and two members of emergency medical services team to discuss needs for the June 16 concert. Everything is set, with 10 police officers ready to staff the event. Police chief requested that an ambulance be stationed at the field, but EMS will provide emergency medical services for all MBC events throughout the year at no cost to the MBC.

Committee Reports

Finance/Fundraising Committee

Rob reported on ongoing sales of coins; plans for the commemorative plate; Vaillancourt art commemorative item; Prints of the Past framed montage, on sale at Ray's True Value; update on raffle of painting donated by Michael Graves, showing South Main Street bridge from the west. Tickets for the raffle will be \$20 each, winner to be drawn at the townwide birthday party. Prints of the painting will also be on sale; Bill presented information about the bicentennial quilt being donated by his wife, Judy. The quilt will also be raffled for the benefit of the MBC.

Rob noted that executive committee voted to send one additional fundraising appeal with the October real estate tax bills.

Motion by Jeff, second by Cyndi, to approve the cost of the mailing for a final fundraising appeal. Unanimously approved with no further discussion.

Rob reported that reprints of the Centennial History have been purchased by a local Realtor, and given to new homeowners in town., to purchase 10 additional copies of the Centennial History. Unanimously approved with no discussion. Motion by Joe, second by Paul. . Unanimously approved with no further discussion.

Rob said that a group will be manning the merchandise booth at the June 16 concert, offering all the items that are available.

Roger noted that the fundraising thermometer has been replaced in the center of town, with \$250,000 mark achieved.

Media Committee

Paul reported that some additional information has been posted to the website. He is working on posters, signage and other miscellaneous tasks pertaining to the promotion of the concert and other events. Paul has contacted T&G, Daily Millbury and other media contacts and will continue to follow up to ensure that information is as widely distributed as possible.

Postcards to the town will be delivered June 12 and after, with residences first, then businesses, completing delivery within two days.

Press kits for business and media are being prepared.

Joe asked whether the location of the re-enactment in West Millbury can be pinpointed. It was described. It is on Backstrad Road, left off West Main Street and west of Stone Road. There is well over 100 acres of open space that will host the event. (It is the former Windle Airport.)

Events Committee

Ron said the classical concert on June 16 is ready; balloon festival has been nixed; plans for other later events are well under way and going well.

Ron noted that parade lineup thus far includes several groups, including Spartans; Connecticut Hurricanes; Excelsior of Troy, NY; Boston Crusaders Senior Band; Waltham American Legion Band; Boston Windjammers; Firehouse Dixie; Worcester Men of Song; Al Youngman Band; and the addition, by committee approval this evening, of the Mummies of Philadelphia. Bill noted that there are ongoing discussions with several other organizations, including high school band, fife and drum corps.

Cyndi noted that the events committee also approved, in concept, a teen film festival events. Still in brainstorming phase.

Jeff noted the committee is trying to involve Millbury elementary school kids in the bicentennial, building on the second grade's annual presentation of highlights of the town.

Bill said everything is in place for the June 16 concert, vouchers signed, lighting, sound, stage, fireworks, toilet facilities. Hoping for seven re-enactors to carry flags at the concert. Bill encourages committee members to arrive early, picnic, and enjoy the evening. Gates open at 6 p.m., concert begins at 8 p.m., with an intermission, and fireworks will commence at approximately 9:45 p.m., coinciding with the band's performance of the 1812 Overture. There was a short discussion of the logistics of committee members setting up to sell commemorative items, as well as promotional efforts in traditional and social media to promote the concert.

History Committee

Carole has met with the elementary, middle and high school officials about participation in the bicentennial, and an education packet for a school local history curriculum for the 2012-2013 year is in the works. Carole presented a copy of the West Millbury history tour folder, and has been working on signage for those sites where buildings are no longer extant.

Peg said that she took the first history tour and was amazed and impressed, and learned a lot about the town's history.

Chris reported that the publication date for "Images of America: Millbury" has been set by the publisher as October 8, 2012. Galley proofs are expected this summer, probably in August, and will be carefully proofread.

Old Business

Roger will spearhead an effort to identify and contact all organizations, including fraternal, civic and non-profit organizations in town to make them aware of opportunities for involvement in the bicentennial, and will then leave it to those various organizations to decide whether and how they would like to become involved. He asked for anyone interested in joining him in that effort to meet with him, gather names and contacts for organizations.

Cyndi suggested the MBC produce and display large waterproof posters for each event, said posters to be placed in the vicinity of the fundraising thermometer in center of town. Paul said art is done, he could get a quotation on making such a sign. Consensus and unanimous agreement to print such a sign.

Bill said all flags are ready except the town flag, which is in production and expected to be delivered on or before June 14.

Discuss 1913, 1963, and 1988 programs and events. Copies of the programs were distributed, and Roger suggested committee members look it over for a discussion at the July meeting.

New Business

Bill noted volunteers meeting for classical concern on June 16 was held on Tuesday evening, June 5. A few additional volunteers are needed. About 30 are on board, and another 12 to 15 are needed, mainly for parking duties.

Other – South Main Street historical site issues

Roger said Blackstone Valley Ranger Chuck Arnig recently sent an email noting that the VFW Post will be leased recently. Mr. Arnig hopes that Fidelity Bank might be willing to refurbish that area and designate it as a Millbury Armory historical landmark for the community. Bill noted there are some historical artifacts in the area that should be preserved.

Cyndi noted that the Historical Commission has already reviewed Fidelity Bank's plans for the site, and that the town planner is already aware of the historical issues, and that conditions, including archaeological reviews, are included. There will be an easement for the Blackstone Valley bikepath. Bank is agreeable to the various conditions.

Jeff said the Asa Waters Mansion has booked an event for July titled "The Waters Armory Effect on the War of 1812," with Mr. Arnig. He intends, weather and time permitting, to lead a group tour of the site on that date.

Bill asked for a motion. Motion by Jeff for MBC to send a letter to Fidelity Bank's planning consultant to preserve historical artifacts on the site. Second by Peg. Unanimously approved without further discussion.

Roger said that Friends of the Asa Waters Mansion will send a letter to Springfield seeking loan of the Blanchard lathe replica for viewing at the mansion for the townwide birthday party event; with proviso that the MBC could request having the lathe remain for additional days if they send a letter. Jeff recommended that the MBC first find out whether the lathe will be loaned, and then decide on how much time to have the lathe on display. Rob said the MBC should also decide what they want to do to promote the lathe's display. Issue was tabled, discussion to resume at July meeting.

Frank said that Millbury Historical Society has two glass cabinets at the Town Hall for periodic displays. One cabinet is now filled with items MHS has for sale. The other is for rotating displays. Frank suggested that MBC items could be promoted there, letting visitors know the items can be purchased at Ray's True Value.

Next Meeting

7 p.m., Wednesday, July 11, 2012, Asa Waters Mansion.

Adjournment

Motion by Joe, seconded by Ron. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Submitted by
Chris Sinacola
June 7, 2012