

TOWN OF MILLBURY MINUTES

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Bicentennial Committee

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm Street, Millbury

Attendees

Committee Members Present

Cynthia Burr
Carole Chiras
Roger Derosiers
Jeffrey Dore
Annie Gasco
William Kane, Sr.
Denise Marlborough

Ronald Marlborough
E. Joseph McKeon
Robert Morton
Mary Lou Mulhane
Peg Spang
Paul Raffa
Jamie Rembiszewski

Christopher Sinacola
Lynn Winston

Committee Members Absent

David Cofske
Paul DiCicco
Catherine Elliott
Frank Gagliardi

Carol Vulter
Armand White
Joyce Ostrowski
Karen Gagliardi

Guests Presents

Rich Hamilton

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of August 17 meeting minutes

Motion by Jeff Dore, second by Peg Spang, unanimously approved.

Reorganization of MBC

All 24 members have been sworn in once again as of September 27, 2011. Motion by Jeff Dore, second by Cindy Burr to retain officers as is, unanimously approved without discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Formal report passed over, as Joyce Ostrowski is not present.

Finance and Fundraising Committee report

Rob Morton reviewed the sales of the MBC commemorative coins, and suggested an additional order of coins. Motion by Joseph McKeon, second by Denise Marlborough, approving \$2,600 for purchase of additional 50 commemorative coins. Unanimously approved. Rob also reviewed sales of Vaillancourt Folk Art Santa collectible and raffle tickets, as well as progress on tickets to the annual wine tasting event.

A discussion of the Fox News Zip Trip media feature, which is always done on a Friday morning. Committee needs to decide what occasion and location connected to the bicentennial would be most appropriate for a topic.

Rob reviewed fundraising efforts made by Karen Gagliardi, with the various balances, for events, including the Psychic Reading Show and candy bar sales.

Rob also reemphasized the importance of getting firm budget estimates for various events. The MBC is hitting all its cash targets, and projects net cash balance of about \$145,000.

Finally, Rob is willing to donate to the town for use at Town Hall his copy of the reprint 1915 Centennial History. Bill said Town Hall personnel could use a copy so their original copy of the history can be kept in the vault at Town Hall and preserved in relatively good condition.

Carole donated an original copy of town history to Finance and Fundraising Committee, which Rob gratefully accepted. The book is for the committee to use/market/raffle as it sees fit.

Media Committee report

Paul Raffa read some emails received, including suggestions that there be trolleys; a note from Alternatives Unlimited noting 96 North Main Street is a group home, and asking whether any activities might involve the individuals residing at that address; an individual with a Beatles tribute band that would be interested in coming to an event.

- As to the website, Paul requested that committees email him with events and times.
- More than 600 people have “liked” the MBC on the Facebook page.
- Media committee has discussed potential naming of new bridge on Route 122A.
- Mary Lou Mulhane noted Millbury Woman’s Club will have wine tasting 3/31/2012.
- Next Media Committee meeting is 6:30 p.m. Oct. 24 at Barnes & Noble at mall.
- Bill Kane mentioned there is still a need for individuals willing to donate their expertise and time for website development.
- Paul noted he almost done with website for the Revolutionary War re-enactment.

Events Committee report

Bill said committee is close to signing contract for the classical concert, to be held at Windle Field on June 16, 2012. Cindy Burr suggested possibility of partnering with another organization that knows the fieldhouse there and could be useful.

Mary Lou Mulhane, Denise Marlborough and Lynn Winston noted that various details for the Bicentennial Ball are coming together.

Ron Marlborough said parade preparations are slow, but will pick up as event nears.

Cindy Burr reported on balloon festival. Budget estimates have been prepared, and a final budget will be presented shortly to the Finance Committee. Plans call for a balloon festival to be held in conjunction with the August 2012 firemen’s muster. Bill said the next step is to present the budget to the Finance Committee for its meeting on October 5. Rob accepted a copy at this meeting and agreed to discuss the matter further with any questions referred back to the Balloon Committee. Bill said a final approval could follow at the next general MBC meeting.

Roger noted that Rogers Farm Supply approached him at the Block Party in September, expressing interest in having a parade float, and asks how and when groups can line up a float. Ron and Bill said that process will unfold over the last six months leading up to the parade.

Paul said Revolutionary War re-enactment event is in planning stages, good progress is being made, final details need to be worked out with the Pearson family; event is expected to attract about 600 people, with crowds pushing the numbers still higher.

Roger and Bill discussed briefly the insurance rider policies, and passed it around for a review. He noted a rider must be completed and submitted for each event, and the MBC will be responsible for the upfront cost of the riders.

Bill related substance of discussion with acting police chief about public safety coverage for various of the major events; there will be some money in the police budget for some of these events. A first aid and safety discussion was held with Brian Stowell, and it appears an on-duty ambulance should be available for all events except the Revolutionary War event, at which it would be advisable to have medical tents, with a maximum of six people at \$120 per person per hour for the duration of the event, although such costs may be less if volunteers come forward.

History Committee report

Carole noted that while the contract talks with teachers are not settled, it is not possible to proceed with development of a history curriculum in association with the schools. She noted that as staff changes over time, it is more challenging to cultivate interest in the town's history. At present, Roger noted, the curriculum is on hold not because of unwillingness on the part of the teaching staff, but because there is a "work to rule" atmosphere in the school's at this point.

The History Committee is trying to put together a tour of historical sites in Millbury, with details to be settled at the committee's next meeting in early October. It could either be a stand-alone event or run in coordination with another event, and having trolley transportation is a strong possibility. Bill said it is important to set a date as soon as possible. Peg Spang asked whether there will be additional "Memory Days."

Chris Sinacola gave an update on the Arcadia photo book, noting that the contract has been signed, the priority being to first scan the original photos of the Millbury Historical Society, followed by a few months of intense networking, including through the Senior Center, to determine what areas of town, subjects and so forth will need to be developed further in order to present a book that is reflective of the full geographical and thematic range of the town and its history. Members of the committee will continue to reach out to and make contact with various families and individuals who may have material to share that would be appropriate for the book. Chris said he is confident that he will have sufficient material for the book. Chris noted that there are technical specifications that Arcadia requires, and it is important to make sure that those specs are met. While photos already scanned may well meet those specs, it's important to make sure they are, so that we do not have to repeatedly go back to sources.

Bill noted that the royalties cannot be assigned to the town, as they would simply get lost in the general fund, and suggested, in light of the Millbury Historical Society's role, that the royalties be assigned to them. Chris Sinacola moved, with a second by Jeff Dore, to assign the royalties to the Millbury Historical Society. Unanimously approved without discussion.

Old Business

Firemen's muster of August 27. Members who staffed the event said it was successful, in spite of the heavy tropical rains, but while there was some interest, particularly in the free items,

and two people who expressed interests in volunteering, there was not much interest in purchasing shirts, raffle tickets and other items.

Bill attended Millbury Woman's Club meeting of September 12.

The Psychic Reading Show on Sept. 15 at the Elm Draughtouse was a success, with 110 tickets sold, and 107 people showing up.

Block Party was held Sept. 18. Roger thanked all committee members who participated at the muster and/or block party, noting that networking was important and useful. Hopes that starting with the classical concert next June, there will be giveaways at various events that can promote the MBC.

Military flyover. Bill said there are two possibilities: The early evening at the opening of the classical concert, or at the parade. Asks members to offer input at the next meeting. Roger said it may take several months lead time to ensure the flyover takes place, so if the preference is for the June concert, action should be taken sooner rather than later. Lynn Winston moved, seconded by Jamie Rembiszewski, to request a flyover at both the June 16, 2012 classical concert and the 2013 parade date. The motion was unanimously approved. The thinking is that we may get one or both, and it's best to ask for both since, as Cindy noted, the decision for a flyover is always made by the air base commander on the day in question in any case.

Bill said he still has some concerns about volunteers – pursuing them for commitment for specific events and tasks. He said it is paramount to have a way to coordinate that, and emphasized people want to know when they are volunteering, how many hours, and what they will be doing. Roger said he feels there is much good will toward the MBC in the community and is confidence volunteers will be available, although he agrees that it is essential at some point to arrange for volunteers at the specific events. Ron said in his experience people wait until the last minute to volunteer for events, so the closer to an event, the higher the interest and the likelihood of volunteers. The committee had a general discussion of volunteers.

New Business

Roger and Bill said MBC needs to have monthly meetings from this point forward. Next is Nov. 2. MBC is booked for first Wednesday of each month at Asa Waters for the next year. Vote is needed to confirm. Motion by Joseph McKeon, second by Peg Spang, unamiously OK'd.

Carole Chiras said committee members will have a chance to take the historical tour, but further discussion postponed until History Committee can review.

Bill and Roger will look into an ecumenical service in November 2012.

Bill noted further work needs to be done in involving town organizations in the community with MBC events.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Dore, seconded by Ron Marlborough, and unanimously approved. Meeting ended at 9:04 p.m.

Submitted by
Chris Sinacola
October 6, 2011