

TOWN OF MILLBURY MINUTES

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Bicentennial Committee

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm Street, Millbury

Attendees

Committee Members Present

Carole Chiras	Robert Morton	Ron Marlborough
Roger Derosiers	Joyce Ostrowski	Peg Spang
Frank Gagliardi	Paul Raffa	Cynthia Burr
William Kane, Sr.	Chris Sinacola	Denise Marlborough
	Lynn Winston	Jamie Rembiszewski
	Paul DiCicco	Annie Gasco
	Jeffrey Dore	

Committee Members Absent

David Cofske	Karen Gagliardi	
Catherine Elliott	E. Joseph McKeon	
Tish Hayes	Mary Lou Mulhane	Carol Vulter

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes of November 2 were amended by Joyce, to include Joyce Ostrowski, Bill Kane and TBA under list of those who were absent. Amended minutes unanimously approved.

Rob explained that several small accounts were open as independent fundraisers, which is not in compliance with state law. Those accounts will be closed and reopened under the control of the town, so that all money for MBC events flows through the town. The one exception is the sales of memorabilia at Ray's True Value hardware store, which is an independent entity.

Treasurer's Report

Joyce reported \$158,484.29 is the MBC's overall account balance.

Recent major activity includes the direct mail fundraising campaign that goes to all residential and business addresses in town. More than \$15,000 has come in since the beginning of November. Clothing orders and sales continue, with nearly \$1,500 coming in on clothing in November and December; more than \$1,500 in coin sales; \$40 in coin jar collections around town recently, with a total of a little more than \$1,500 total; wine tasting event showed a profit of a little over \$4,900. Joyce also explained about the bead project, "Team Bead," which she and Maggie Daley at Town Hall are conducting. The beads are \$20. She has sold 14 beads in just five days. \$10 from each sale goes to the MBC.

Finance and Fundraising Report

Rob reviewed budget and four-year cash flow analysis, noting that Lyceum event cost will be pushed from 2012 to 2013, and that a modest sum for up-front purchase by MBC of the Arcadia picture book in 2012 will be announced. Chris Sinacola will work up a number for this.

Bill Kane made motion to approve \$300 for 30 wooden silhouette historical buildings to sell. Second by Lynn Winston, unanimously approved.

Bill Kane made motion to approve \$500 for 50 additional beads, second by Denise Marlborough, unanimously approved.

Rob also reported:

- Capital campaign letter, third phase, will be sent out in early January.
- Some additional banners will be designed and ordered, one specific location to be the Cunningham Block in downtown.
- Another banner to acknowledge capital campaign donors.
- Coin sales have cooled off a bit, while Vaillancourt folk art commemorative Santa sales are heating up. One example of the Santa is on display at Town Hall.
- Direct mail campaign has brought in about \$13,000, which is a little short of the \$15,000 goal, but the response to date has been very good. Among commercial donors, about \$8,000 has been raised, goal being \$10,000.
- Two commemorative plate designs are under consideration. Both will be brought to the full committee.
- Millbury Woman's Club is coordinating with local artist Michael Graves for an original painting.
- Millbury-Sutton Chronicle is going to publish a special event paper recognizing their 25th anniversary, and intend to donate a portion of their sales for that promotion to the MBC.

Media Committee Report

Paul Raffa reports that some updates were recently done to the MBC website, focusing on memorabilia sales and putting events listings in PDF format. Next will be a page recognizing top donors, in order of size of donations. Similar efforts will be made to the MBC Facebook page.

In terms of technical needs, one additional volunteer has come forward offering some assistance.

Paul prepared a draft version of the promotion brochure to be handed out at various events. Many brochures were handed out at the recent Chain of Lights event.

The last media committee meeting was postponed, next meeting is Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Events Committee Report

Ron reported that the November meeting was canceled because of the death of a family member of a committee member. A meeting for bicentennial ball planning is slated for Dec. 8; a full events committee report is scheduled for Jan. 5.

Paul Raffa said the location for the Revolutionary War re-enactment has been secured, and many of the re-enactor groups have committed to the event, listed it on their calendars, etc., and that the next step is marketing efforts. Things are going very well. Roger noted that a group of MBC folks and/or volunteers will be needed to inform neighbors that, basically, the British are coming. There are several residences on West Main Street, Bakstran Road, Gilbert Way, and

South Oxford Road that will be within sight or earshot of the event, and that those residents should be notified.

Roger suggested that there may need to be a separate subcommittee of MBC doing logistical work in preparation for the re-enactment, in terms of what impact the event will have on the community, neighbors, etc. Roger asked that anyone interested in assisting Paul in these efforts step forward.

Bill spoke with Judy O'Connor about use of trollies for history tour and Rev. War re-enactment, and suggests trollies may be best choice for these events, given road conditions.

Cynthia Burr said band her committee is hiring for the balloon festival, the Mohegan Sun All-Stars, will be playing at the Hanover Theatre on New Year's Eve, so anyone interested in hearing them has that opportunity, and if there is sufficient interest MBC might be able to obtain reserved seating. She said they are "bluesy fabulous... *really* good."

Ron said that for the parade, a few contracts have come in, but with the coming of the new year, some of the major groups that may participate will be contacting MBC and will likely make their commitments. Roger asked when it would be appropriate to begin promoting the parade. Bill said not before January 2013.

Bill summarized executive committee's discussion with town's Finance Director, Brian Turbitt, regarding the need to have all contracts drafted by the town and signed by the town manager; and how the MBC is subject to Chapter 30B uniform procurement rules, but will be exempted from some procurement requirements; that MBC subcommittees should still obtain contract terms from vendors or organizations, and the town will incorporate language into its general contract terms; also, a recap of the concerns with the Pepper's catering contract terms, and how that is being resolved.

History Committee Report

Carole reported that history committee met on Nov. 5 for a historical tour of the town, and noted that planning continues for the history tour and brochure, a draft of which Paul Raffa has prepared. It is not yet clear whether the tour would be a one-shot deal, or be conducted monthly.

There has also been discussion of having a walking history tour of Millbury Center, which would be developed in consultation with Frank Gagliardi

Chris Sinacola reported on progress made scanning photos and various other images. Primarily, this has included two sessions with Frank Gagliardi to scan materials collected by the Millbury Historical Society, as well as various other photos that have come. Thus far, there are 316 images that are properly scanned, with some additional materials still to be reviewed for technical specifications.

Chris emphasized that anyone who still have photos or knows of folks who may have photos should come forward as soon as possible, since the project deadlines are fast approaching. The first deadline is January 10, when six to 10 images must be submitted for consideration for the Arcadia book cover. ALL materials are due in March, but Chris will need sufficient time for layout, research, and writing.

Additional contact suggested included Linc Bordeaux and Bob Pearson. Cynthia Burr offered a disk with images to Chris at this meeting, as well.

Chris shared copies of the nine images currently being submitted for consideration for the cover, but emphasized that the selection of the cover is entirely up to Arcadia. These images were passed around for MBC members to look at and comment on. Chris said that six of these nine will be submitted, the goal being to ensure that whatever image is chosen, everyone will be happy with it.

Chris also asked that members think about how many books MBC feels it could reasonably sell, for purposes of preparing an order and financing request. Roger suggested that an order of 200 books could be made, and each copy embossed and signed as a "limited edition" special.

Carole said that she and Roger will meet to put together a local history curriculum for use in the Millbury Public Schools. Roger said the superintendent is eager to have a meeting and discussion.

Old Business

Roger met with Sen. Moore, who said there needs to be some connection with the local veterans' organization to make it at least possible that a military flyover will happen at one or more of the MBC's events.

Roger suggested MBC members bring up the celebration and the possibilities for getting involved with the various social, fraternal and civic organizations with which they may be involved.

Bill said he met with the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle, and expressed the MBC's disappointment with the paper's coverage to date of the MBC's activities. Roger said it was good to express the committee's frustration.

Paul DiCicco will be putting several teasers on the local cable access channel, noting that the fun begins on June 16, 2012.

New Business

Jeff Dore said that he, Frank Gagliadi, and Jeff Houston did a walking tour of the Blackstone River/Canal recently in search of mile marker 37 on the old Blackstone Canal. Obtained permission from National Grid to search for the marker on their property. It was located. It is a granite marker, rounded at the top, with "37" engraved on it. Frank gave a synopsis of the Blackstone Canal, and how some years ago, the Historical Commission conducted research into the remains of the canal, which lie mainly between Grafton and Providence streets. Frank said it would be nice to have the marker on display in some fashion, pending further discussion.

Roger read a letter from Town Clerk Jane Davolio thanking MBC for donating a copy of the Centennial History to the town, to replace the very worn copy in the Town Hall vault.

Adjournment by unanimous agreement at 8:42 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 7 p.m., Asa Waters Mansion.

Submitted by
Chris Sinacola
December 7, 2011