

TOWN OF MILLBURY MINUTES

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Bicentennial Committee – Executive Committee

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Location: Asa Water Mansion, 123 Elm Street, Millbury

Attendees

Executive Committee Members Present

Carole Chiras

Roger Desrosiers

William Kane, Sr.

Robert Morton

Ronald Marlborough

Chris Sinacola (nonvoting)

Executive Committee Members Absent

Joyce Ostrowski

Paul Raffa

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes:

Took up minutes of April 27 executive committee. Struck paragraph “Committee will look into \$855 additional donation...” as the information contained therein is inaccurate.

Bill Kane motion to accept, seconded by Carole Chiras, unanimously approved.

Took up minutes of emergency meeting of May 19, 2011. Bill Kane motion to accept, Rob Morton second, unanimously approved.

Committee reports:

Treasurer’s report will be given at next meeting. Rob Morton said it appears it will be OK to place the fundraising thermometer at the downtown corner controlled by Millbury National Bank. Bill Kane said the insurance issue is taken care of. Rob said it would be nice to have some press coverage and coordinate the placement of the thermometer with other publicity efforts for the MBC.

Fundraising discussion:

Rob said the reports can be covered in more detail at the general membership meeting, but wants to discuss with executive committee the possibility of doing another direct mail campaign. The

capital campaign is essentially complete, with the fundraising goal met. He suggests a letter thanking residents for their generosity in the mailing last year, and asking for further support.

Bill said he would like to get a full list of contributors, however large or small their donations, from Rob, who said that list can be obtained from Joyce Ostrowski. Bill said the purpose would be to identify potential donors for supporting the parade.

Carole said that she has not yet approached the committee for funding for trolleys for a historical tour, but said that any request would not exceed \$3,000. She noted that there is a budget item of \$8,000 for a Millbury Lyceum program in 2012; that she will check with the committee putting that event together and eventually bring forward a formal proposal and request for funding.

The committee discussed the possibility of tapping entities, including business and individuals, in the committee who have not yet been asked for donations, but which are known to be interested in being contacted for donations. Roger noted that there are more than 100 such entities he is aware of.

In general, committee members agreed that while a fundraising appeal letter is a good opener, it is more likely that the committee will succeed in landing donations by direct, personal appeals, in person or by phone, and particularly to businesses who may very much want to support the event, or would, when asked, feel that supporting the town's bicentennial celebration would be the right thing to do.

Events committee report:

Ron reports that events committee met on June 9. Classical concert date will be June 16, 2012, with rain date of June 17. Cost is \$16,000 and a sound company will have to be hired. Bill has a quote of \$7,300 from Media Sound and is awaiting a second quote. And it appears that the police details costs will be within budget. In August, Bill plans to meet with the new or interim police chief to discuss the matter of police detail coverage.

Ron has discussions with "Spirit of America" band, whose cost is about \$7,000, but they cannot yet commit to the event, as it is too far in the future. Contacted a Waltham band, and has tried to contact the UMass band. Call out to Shriner's Lodge in Springfield as well.

Next events committee meeting on June 23, anticipate meeting with balloon fest contact.

The town's birthday party, and bicentennial ball.

History committee:

- Tornado warnings and bad weather cut short the June 1 historical tour of town. Eleven attendees completed about one-third of the tour before the threat of weather forced the group to retreat.
- Contact in Gill, Mass., woman who has photos, will contact Chris Sinacola for possible inclusion in the Arcadia photo book.

- Historical Society is planning to do a historical tour of downtown.
- Next meeting is August 3.

Old business:

Roger said he accepted a check from the Millbury Woman's Club in the amount of \$2,500, which is the "copper" level for donators, and suggests that the club be included in that category. Rob said the club would receive a plaque and a sticker, but that it need not be considered part of the capital campaign, as they were not part of that campaign, although he acknowledges it was a very welcome donation. Roger pointed out that their donation rose to the level of "copper" under the capital campaign. Bill asked where the committee should draw the line. Roger suggested that the committee may want to establish guidelines as to how to recognize and account for donations. Bill agreed that discussion is needed, and said that acknowledging particular donations in certain ways could set a precedent and may cause difficulties later on if there are not clear definitions.

Roger added that the Millbury Woman's Club gave three checks simultaneously to the MBC at the committee meeting that he attended, and that there was not sufficient time for him to properly thank and acknowledge the donation.

Board of Library Trustees met June 14, but no one from MBC was able to attend. Not sure whether MBC was on the board's agenda.

Roger asked how the effort to identify and attract further volunteers is going. The bottom line, Roger said, is to identify what specific needs of each committee are, and approaching would-be volunteers to help with specific tasks. Carole said a letter with a postcard insert may be helpful, asking would-be volunteers to confirm their interest and willingness to participate. Roger said committee chairs need to identify those specific needs before the mailing is made.

Town meeting and firemen's muster will be discussed at general membership meeting.

Next meeting will be August 17, 2011.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Kane, seconded by Ron Marlborough, and meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Submitted by
Chris Sinacola
June 20, 2011