

Wayland 375 Anniversary Committee Meeting
Wednesday February 29, 2012

Meeting

Called to order 7:00 pm

Committee Members Present:

Mary Antes
Allison Tobia
John Dyer
Peter Gossels
Jane Sciacca
Pam Bonaguide
Lynn Dunbrack
Lois Davis
Barbara Holtz
Brad Keyes

The specific focus of the meeting this month was to discuss the historical aspect of the anniversary celebration. Members of the Wayland Historical Society and residents interested in this aspect of the anniversary were invited to attend and discuss plans and ideas. Non-Committee members who attended were:

Tonya Largy (Wayland Historical District Commission)
Molly Beard (First Parish Church)
Gretchen Schuler (Wayland Historical District Commission)
Robert Mainer (Wayland Historical Society)
Marjorie Baston (Wayland Historical District Commission & Historical Society)
Jackie Watkins (Wayland 375 supporter)
Ann Knight (Wayland Public Library)
Elisa Scola (Wayland Historical District Commission)
Molly Faulkner (Wayland 375 supporter)
Rick Conard (Wayland Historical District Commission)

Historical Aspect of the Anniversary Celebration

It would be fantastic if we could have an article of a historical nature published every week from now until the anniversary celebrations begin in 2013. Jane Sciacca and Lois Davis discussed submitting an article of general historic nature with photographs every week to the Town Crier. One major concern is that it would entail 52 weeks of articles and photographs, and there are only 2 people available on the Historical Commission to contribute to the effort.

We also discussed putting 375 daily items such as daily trivia, fun facts, "375 things I love about Wayland" on a calendar, web site, or Facebook posting. We should start developing that material now. The Committee needs one person to take charge of this item

Perhaps do a virtual tour on the town's web site.

Gather materials and develop an exhibit or presentation about the various neighborhoods in Wayland, how they evolved, how they got their names, etc. There is even a tunnel that was used in the Underground Railroad that not many residents know about!

Mary Antes contacted David Fisher (Wayland Pulitzer Prize winner) who is willing to do something for Wayland 375, including a Teach-In.

There are several resources that currently exist that we could utilize for various other historical purposes. Some of these materials are somewhat dated and will need to be updated. The Committee unanimously supports a project to update the Wayland 1976 Bicentennial Celebration "Wayland Historical Tours" book.

There also exists an activity booklet for school-age children about the history of Wayland. The booklet contains activities (draw pictures of historical Wayland, maze, word find, the postal service back then, etc.). This material could potentially be used in the Wayland Public School curriculum. Ideally, the Committee could develop a similar booklet that could be used for years to come, not just for the anniversary year.

"The Village Evolves" is an existing curriculum that covers Wayland history from pre-European through the colonial period used by the Historical Society. The program is exciting for school-age children and involves building a town with figures and a bus tour. We talked about possibly getting a Duck Boat for this purpose.

Tanya Largy will develop a program about the Native Americans, perhaps in conjunction with the Historical Society.

We want to divide the anniversary year into roughly four periods:

Pre-European
Colonial
Industrial revolution
20th century

The Committee favorably discussed the idea that "History is Everywhere." More information about this inclusive way of bringing out facts (developed by Helen Wise) can be found online at the Umass Amherst web site in an article published in the Fall of 2011.

We could encourage residents to research their historical homes and provide the Committee with information and photos.

Pam Bonaguide talked about Mass Memories for the benefit of those attendees not familiar with the program. The web site is www.massmemories.net

We should collect oral histories. There are specific protocols that oral historians follow in interviewing people. Wayland has quite a few tapes of oral histories that have even been transcribed. E.G. 1938 hurricane, WWII.

Jane Sciacca will be the coordinator for all historic activities and events for the 375th.

Jane Sciacca spoke with authors who wrote "Northern Hospitality." It may be interesting to have a program on the evolution of cookbooks where we could provide desserts made from Lydia Child recipes (Lydia Child, who wrote "The Frugal Housewife")

Have children play colonial games
Scavenger hunt
Children's Day

Have Rick Conard give his talk about the history of railroads with a focus on Wayland. We could film it in the Raytheon Room for Way-Cam, where there is a Way-Cam setup. People could then walk over to the old railroad station and see it in person.

Fundraising

Discussed fundraising ideas. Re-visit Waylandopoly. Some towns have made money on the game.

Allison Tobia related her meeting with the organizer of the Town of North Smithfield, RI Bicentennial Celebration and brought samples of collectible items sold by North Smithfield at a profit.

Web Site

Brad Keyes talked about development of the web site. As he said at our last meeting, we want a page for each of the celebration events. Brad has already put up a skeleton web site that is not open to the public just yet. He will have it in a state for the Committee to review by the next meeting in March.

Ann Knight of the Library volunteered to maintain the web site or assist in maintaining it.

Focus of Next Meeting – Incorporating Children Into the Celebration Year

Our March 28, 2012 will focus on children's activities. We will invite representatives from the Wayland Public Schools, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, PTO, Dudley Pond, Ski Club, Wayland Boosters, Recreation Dept, and the WCPA to come to the meeting and brainstorm with us on how we can get Wayland's children to participate in the anniversary celebrations.

The Committee would like to have some amount of Wayland history incorporated into the school curriculum. It would not have to entail any major changes to existing curriculum.

Rather, the Committee hopes that the schools will be amenable to simply adding a small amount of Wayland history for all Wayland Public School students. It is important for Wayland's youth to have some knowledge about how and when this town began and its long and fascinating history. It is also important for the Town itself that future generations maintain this basis of knowledge.

As discussed earlier in the meeting there already exists material that could be updated and adapted for use in the schools.

The Committee discussed possibly having older grades learn and reenact more contemporary controversies in the Town and how the residents and local government dealt with the discord (e.g. whether to build a new middle school, Town Center, Dow Chemical, the Communist teacher, etc.) There is a concern that such contemporary issues could open old wounds and be divisive.

Minutes

A Motion to correct the Minutes was approved. The following two changes will be made to the Minutes of the January 25, 2012 meeting:

1. Add the names of the finance sub-committee members
2. Change "Commission" to "Committee"

Logo

Pete Curran is sending a revised logo. Mary Antes will email it to the Committee members so that they can approve it and the Committee can begin using it.

Press Coverage

It is important to get periodic articles in the press about the 375th Anniversary, the Committee's work in planning it, and the need for volunteers. Lynn will submit one such article prior to the upcoming Town Meeting.

Adjourned 9:15 pm