

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Argy Nestor, Norma Hunt, Cindy Wright, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer, Keith Siegel, Martha Johnston-Nash (Select Board Rep)

Others present: Pat Hood, Yvonne Pitzi, Tom Pitzi

NOTE: Town Hall Streams started @ 6:15 p.m. Thanks to Norma Hunt who took notes.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:04 p.m. by Argy Nestor.
- 2. Approve April 1, 2024 minutes:**

Motion by: Argy Nestor

2nd by: Keith Siegel

5-0

Martha arrived.

- 3. Welcome new committee member, Cindy Wright**
- 4. Updates from Committee Members:**

Keith gave an update on the press releases and the plan to have them going out. The Grand Marshal announcement goes out on April 9.

Ruth Ann said they have seven volunteers for the parade, and hopefully Bob Oxton will make eight.

Martha would like a press release for the founding families picnic. Argy said she should write something up for that. Martha said it's important to get it in the Waldo County area, Augusta, generally all over Maine. Argy said *The Kennebec Journal* should maybe be getting all our press releases.

Argy also said if anyone feels there needs to be a press release about something specific, get that content to Keith and Cindy ASAP so they can keep writing and generating them. Keith suggested every press release will have a plea for volunteers.

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Martha did not have a report on posters. The t-shirt design is all set. Argy said she has information from Supplies Unlimited in Damariscotta on posters and signs, and she has the rest of the information from KDK as well. At some point we can combine the information and decide who to go with. She added it doesn't matter if we print them now if we're not going to put them up until May 1 or June 1. We really haven't decided when those would go.

Martha is moving ahead with the descendants picnic. Re: using the exhibition hall, Argy said Mike Drickey was on vacation, and we won't be able to meet with him and Matt before Matt finishes. Martha confirmed that's on the list to find out about.

Martha also said she hasn't been able to work on the volunteer sign up yet. She thinks she can set it up and add to it. We just need to get it all on there ASAP.

In answer to Argy, Norma said re: traditional arts on Saturday morning, she didn't think she would need help setting up tables as long as the tables are there. Her biggest thing will be the couple of people who need power, etc. Cindy will be working with her. Norma confirmed they can set up anytime after 8:00 a.m. Argy said parking is not all confirmed.

Argy suggested Martha set up the skeleton of the volunteer signups. Norma said she had used Signup Genius as had Cindy. She said the Lobster Festival uses Evently. Martha said this is signup.com which her rotary uses. She thought by mid-May we need to have that rolling.

Re: Depot Street parade closure, Argy said we need to contact everybody on Depot Street about the parade. Everybody on the Common has been contacted. Ruth Ann suggested going all the way out to the turnoff. Argy said we may want volunteers for that by July 1. Ruth Ann confirmed we are also getting political style signs; Martha is getting prices from Adventure Advertising and we have info from Supplies Unlimited and KDK. The signs are to announce the Sestercentennial. Ruth Ann was thinking something like "parade route," but they can be handwritten like Linda did for the Masons Easter Breakfast – something with information like road closure stuff. Argy said we will talk more about that.

Re: traditional arts, Norma said it's coming along. Petrea Allen will do a knitting demonstration. We've got tatting. Argy said she has not yet reached out to Mary Sabins on felting. Norma's chair caning person is not able to do it, while Cindy's (Anne Perschon, Anne's Old Chairs) is a maybe.

Ruth Ann said she has been working on parade lineup. Once Bill Packard is back after the 22nd, the people involved/volunteers can go down to the TCC and go over that. Re: road closure, she got a diagram of what a road closure should look like from Jay. She will send it to Pat. Pat confirmed it was approved by the select board and will check with him.

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Ruth Ann is waiting to hear from the American Legion and Shriners. Everyone else is confirmed. Re: music, Dunlap Highlanders will be there unless it's a hurricane. She will check with the other two bands about weather.

Re: stuffies, Ruth Ann said Rachel did a cute one. She will contact the stitch group at the library. She noted Rachel's pattern was a crocheted bird. Argy said let her know if we need to put that call out on Facebook.

Argy said we put a call out twice for somebody to bake the cake. Abigail Peabody has come forward and will donate the cake. Keith noted she used to do all the pastries at Sterlington Bakehouse and is awesome. Argy said we definitely need to do a press release on that. Taste-testing was mentioned which Argy joked could be a fundraiser.

Argy said Janice Linscott was thrilled with being named the Parade Grand Marshal. There were 95 likes and loves on Facebook just on our page. There were 60 on What's Up in Union, and comments. She came over the other night as she doesn't have Facebook and sat down and went over it. Ruth Ann will call Shanie about driving her.

Argy also said our number of Facebook followers is up to 521. Between Janice's post and the beard contest information, she thinks we reached a different group. She is trying to post every day.

She said we are all set with porta potties with Handy who lives in Union. He gave us a wicked deal, \$520 for four of them for the weekend. The post office and the people next to the post office are fine with one handicap and one regular porta potty being between the two buildings, against the wall of the post office. We need to decide where the other two will go. She's thinking of asking Pat Cosgrove, because he's got that long lawn and is not there. They should not be in the photos. In answer to Martha, Argy said we have paid for access to the fairgrounds bathrooms as part of our rental – the permanent ones at the end of the exhibition hall, not the ones at Blueberry Acres. If we have money we can add to. Argy added the four porta potties that we're using can be left at the fairgrounds for those days in between per Matt, saving more money. Argy made a note: perhaps two more at fairgrounds, see how much money we have, and go from there.

Re: bandstand, Argy said repairs are underway. All the lattice is built. He ripped off the old today and is putting on the new tomorrow. He's been waiting for it to dry out. He's been sanding so the flower lady can plant. He did find a couple of rotten spots and is working with that. Jody Wentworth and Lanny Dean will meet him there on Wednesday, to take a look at the spiral and ball at the top. If they need to be replaced, that's going to be some time, but we will do it right.

Argy also said we met with Matt and his replacement Tom re: all the town is helping with on the Common. Tom is great. Everything is firmed up with Farley's. The town will contact Dig Safe. Both the elm that we're planting in celebration and the Christmas tree that will be dedicated to Randy (Scott), Tracy's dad, will arrive at the end of April. The

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first two weeks in May, those trees will be planted. The town will dig the holes, and Farley's will set the trees and plant them. She said we will let everybody know when that happens for photo ops. Cindy added it to her list for press releases. Argy added she got some pictures of Michael, too, for Facebook and press releases.

Re: beard contest, Argy had the posters and encouraged everyone to put them around.

Re: bus, Argy confirmed everyone got Sonja's email. She said that is really awesome, our second biggest donor. Martha confirmed the driver is all set.

Re: map, it is a little bit more in motion. She would like to take the plans to the select board tomorrow night. She handed out three rough drawings. She said the front will be the map that's there now. The design is vertical. The old map will be removed and put in the Old Town House. For the other side we are talking about a drone shot of the Common, taken without leaves, with arrows or lines going off that with photos of some of the things that used to be on the Common like a photograph of what those elms looked like, what was there before the post office, Gordon's market, etc. There will also be words/text/content that includes the indigenous history in our community – the history of the schools, perhaps, the historical information about the town and the Common through time.

Argy said the map inside will be about 3.5' x 3.5', and the outside will be 1.5' to 2'. The whole thing will be 5'x5'. The legs will be granite. Kurt Snyder is working with Andy. The painter is actually a sign painter, amazing work. She will redo the sign. At this point we have \$100 toward that project. The budget committee and select board put \$5,000 in the next budget, thinking if this project costs \$10,000 then we've got \$5,000 towards it if we can raise all the money that we need for everything else for the Sestercentennial. She wanted to remind the map was done in 1968, repainted in 1982, and no maintenance other than Greg Grotton sanded the border. It is pretty much a new project based on an old project, so capital improvement Cindy said.

Argy said the artist said if we get her everything by May 15/June 1-ish, she can get the painting done within a month. There are many layers such as digging the holes and planting the posts. Ruth Ann thought it was cutting it close. Keith expressed concern about a plan B. Argy said Frank from the historical society is confident the money will come in. She said someone at the meeting wrote a check for \$100, and there is a good chance the Ben Ames Williams family is going to put in a large chunk. Martha felt the granite was a large part of the cost. Argy asked Andy for a breakdown of the costs – is Kurt donating the granite? Is Kurt going to do the groundwork to set the granite? That is a huge amount of the cost. She said Frank estimated they need to be 5' tall to be in the ground deep enough to be high enough to hold that.

Motion that we move forward with this project by: Keith Siegel
2nd by: Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer

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Martha said she felt uncomfortable voting on that without knowing the cost breakdown and got the feeling the select board is not favorable. She would rather see the money go toward restoration of the Civil War monument, which Argy said she has information on.

Above motion passed,
5-0-1 abstention (Johnston-Nash)

Ruth Ann suggested a Go Fund Me page. Argy said they also asked Andy what if we do just the front and not the back, and to give us a breakdown of each side. Referring to the amazing shot of the Civil War monument with the entire community taken when they erected the monument, she said they talked about just putting that photograph on the back and nothing else, or do that temporarily then doing the next phase at a different time. Cindy pointed out the close proximity of monument and map, and to do it then do it over. She suggested the birdhouse/Sestercentennial logo on the back. Argy said we'll see what Andy says on cost and go from there.

Re: Civil War monument, Argy said Tracy found a material that's safe to use from Brooks Monuments. We can clean with volunteers up a certain distance. She reached out to the County Court re: people that need to do community service as part of their restitution. The town can help but cannot go higher than 8', having to do with liability. In answer to Martha about how much time, Argy said she and students cleaned stones during community service for two hours, two kids on a stone, and they were beautiful when done – not a big time consuming thing. Brooks said the material is easily available. You can't use a power washer as the stone would deteriorate. She said this will be done, and Tracy is fully committed to this project. The Corporal Cobb group may be interested in helping; we have not asked them.

5. Budget, sponsorships, donations:

Argy said we have gotten several checks since we met last time: anonymous for the children's author \$125; need \$500 for the sheep demo, and we have \$600; the Pour Farm donated \$100 toward the elm tree, and we need \$400 for that project. She said Rock City, Viking, Erica Harriman, and Kathy's are the beard contest sponsors. We have anonymous for the Erin Boyce horses. The Ashland One Wheelers are all set. The Chamber donated \$1,100 for the shirts.

Those who've donated to the sheep are BenEva Farm in Warren, Green Meadow Farm, Gray Maple, Brodis Blueberries, and Two Rock Ridge.

Pepsi is donating 25 cases, 15 of soda and 10 of water. We have to pick it up in Auburn so looking for somebody with a truck who can help out with that, last week in June or first week in July. Argy will check with Mark and see if we can put it in the coolers there. We have to pay the deposit on the bottles and cans which is \$30. Pat offered to have his name put down for possible delivery guy, as his office is there now, and he has a place to store it.

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Re: weather, Argy handed out hard copies of the plan. She asked for any changes. The bounce house company does not do it in the rain. The historical society is deciding about the walking tour being postponed if there's a rain date, as everyone will get a book as they're walking which could be problematic. We have a cornhole sponsor, and instead of being at the fairgrounds we'll do it at their location on Rt. 17. We haven't checked with the Masons. Cat's Pajamas was going to be on the bandstand anyway, so they will check with the historical society about space in the Old Town House, as with Sundaes on Sunday and the birthday cake. Argy noted if it's not raining much it could just be an EZ Up. It would be unfortunate to move Corporal Cobb to the Robbins House; their program is 45 minutes long. Merchandise can be inside at the Robbins House and Old Town House.

Re: raffle baskets, Argy said Donna Farley is moving ahead with that. She is trying to get a bike to raffle as well. She has theme baskets. She's going to do six baskets. She needs volunteers which Argy let Martha know, and also has family members who will sign up and help move baskets the beginning and end of each day. They will only be on the Common, not the fairgrounds.

6. Parade grand marshal: Above.

7. Pop-ups, parade float, promotional info:

Argy said re: pop-ups we have things scheduled such as the plant sale and the art fair on the Common that same weekend. We need to check about selling things outside on voting day under the EZ Up. She would like to put together all these events that we know about and pick a couple of dates for pop-ups on the Common. We could also do the new farmers market that's restarting, one of those Fridays. Donna Farley is working on that. Argy will put together those dates, then send a link to a google doc and if not available we can ask volunteers to help with that, too.

Keith confirmed Tracy ordered the medallions, which should arrive at the end of this week. He asked Martha to hit up Don Carrigan at the Chamber to cover our event. Argy said he did a nice job with Waldoboro.

Re: budget, Argy suggested they take the \$600 they voted on last time for the brass band, pull it back, and vote to pay for the bus. That's out of the \$10,000. We'll have about \$1,500 more in that \$10,000 to spend before June 1. We certainly have expenses but she wants to make sure that we have an exact number before we get too close to that \$10,000.

Motion to take \$600 back from the brass band and put it towards the cost of the bus by:
Keith Siegel
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
6-0

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Argy said the cost of the bus for all three days is \$2125 with a driver. The route will be picking up and dropping off people at the fairgrounds, Common, and perhaps during the parade if needed. Ruth Ann said people are dropping off at the TCC and parking at the fairgrounds, so all those people will need to get transported back to the starting point. Cindy asked if it's legal to have private vehicles drive people back from the fairgrounds to the starting point of the parade. Ruth Ann said Jay never got back to her re: liability form. Martha said if you've got family or friends willing to do it for you, nothing wrong with that and that is up to them. Ruth Ann asked if we're paying for example bands does that change anything. Martha said if we're arranging for a private vehicle that's totally different. Consensus would there would be liability there, and that's another Jay/lawyer question. Ruth Ann said TCC is drop off only, no vehicles there as there will not be enough room. Martha mentioned parking here.

Ruth Ann said we have 30 parade entries. She expressed concern about the bus getting everyone back on time. Cindy said we need an ATV or golf cart. Argy said that's on her list. She asked the country club and they don't have any. Ruth Ann brought up a Gator, which Keith said Scot and Mary have as well as Lincoln Hawes added Argy. Cindy brought up signing a liability release. Argy said check with Jay first; we know we have the bus. Ruth Ann said Bill would have a feel for that. Argy said he gave us three different bus routes and is still working on that. Argy said it's amazing what everybody is accomplishing.

8. Common – Civil War monument, trees, birdhouse, bandstand: Above.

9. Weather: Above.

10. Other:

Argy said the Pitzis are here with a concern about the parade route. They own the David Robbins Homestead and are concerned about Depot Street. Pat said we were going to send commercial vehicles down Western Road and stage somebody just at the bottom of Ayer Park. The idea is people who don't want to be caught up in that can exit for that hour's worth of time, so they talked about sending traffic down around in their draft version. He was interested in listening.

Tom Pitzi said there are other businesses as well on the road, a significant distance from the end of the parade. They have an event going on and B&B guests including descendants of David Robbins and are concerned about access to their property. He reached out to DOT. Their area engineer, Darryl Belz, said you can't close the road in front of their house because it's too far away from the end of the parade. He said if you are going to put a detour down at Western Road, what's the plan to make sure people understand that they can still get up Depot Street, because again they are not the only business – you've got Hawes's farm, glamping camping, automotive repair shop as well as reaching out to people as the farmers market runs tractors up and down seven days a week in front of their house going through the Common up to fields all over the place.

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So if you're going to block that road you at least need to notify them of that closure even if it's just the part of it from Ayer Hill to the center of town.

Keith suggested setting up "local traffic only" signs and did not see that you'd have to close it (Depot). People can get there, they just won't be able to go all the way through to the Common. Yvonne said they were helping with due diligence vis a vis the state.

Pat said he will check. He said where it's not a municipality that may be a reason why it has to go to the select board. We should make sure we're good to go. Yvonne will text Pat the engineer's phone number. Ruth Ann said she chatted with that gentleman earlier.

Ruth Ann asked about a flashing light at the turn off to Beth's. Pat said according to Jesse they would probably ask the Warren Fire Department to have a truck there, the idea being a commercial vehicle wouldn't be able to make that swing up on Ayer Hill Road and come back down whereas they could at Beth's. Best practice would probably be have somebody there, have a conversation and say here are your two options for the next option: do you want to continue or go down and turn around? Catching them at the first point would be desired. He said he thought everyone here wanted to be reasonable.

Tom said there are many 18-wheelers and trucks. Argy mentioned that Washington had "Parade Route on this day and time" signs on telephone poles for quite a few weeks before the parade on all those roads coming in. Tom reminded you are not supposed to put signs on telephone poles. Pat said we want to get a variable message board put out there weeks before, educating the traffic. Tom said it would be worthwhile reaching out to Beth's and Robbins Lumber ahead of time, as there is quite a bit of large equipment from those two. Pat said they will have an option to come to that intersection and go around, out to 17, or Tom said 220. Keith thought it a reasonable request not to interfere with businesses.

In answer to Norma, Yvonne said they have six descendants of David Robbins staying with them that weekend from Georgia. She gave them contact information as they want to volunteer, and she will reach out again. Argy said they may have contacted the historical society. Norma mentioned the bus tour. Ruth Ann said why aren't they in the parade (wagon) and mentioned the descendants picnic. Yvonne said they are on the bus tour but no other events not for lack of trying. There were four touch points with the committee (January, April, June, and September) as far as the property. They were told they were on their own, so they are hosting their own event, a decision made in September: they are going to have a lobster dinner in the backyard where the bus tour group comes, overlooking the St. George River where the Robbins family and others came up. It will be a private event with tickets available on their website.

Yvonne also mentioned having folks walking in the fairgrounds exit to get to their vehicles after the parade. She said it is a mile, not a pleasant walk, and a ROW that you have to ask the fair permission to use.

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Pat said he will reach out to the state gentleman and report back just to make sure. Ruth Ann said when she chatted with him, he said he needed a copy of the road closure by the first week of July, and it has to go before Jay. She had emailed Pat, but he couldn't access the attachment.

Cindy brought up bright windshield parking passes for those staying at the homestead, etc. and whoever's directing traffic will let them through. Pat said we just need to make sure whoever is there at the turnoff in Warren has enough information to know we do expect some people to come through. Argy suggested beforehand putting a sign at Routes 1 and 235 and at the turnoff for Beth's, since people travel those roads everyday. She added most likely many will be coming to the parade. Pat mentioned late arrivals.

In answer to Ruth Ann, Pat said Jesse will contact Warren Fire Department. They will probably already be here in the parade to some degree.

11. Next meeting: May 6, 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn:

Motion by: Keith Siegel
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
6-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Hunt and Sherry Abaldo, Secretary