

## MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024**  
**WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM**  
**ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Committee members present:** Henry Umstead, Martha Johnston-Nash (Select Board Rep), Argy Nestor, Tracy Weed, Keith Siegel, Norma Hunt, Sonja Burns, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer

**Others present:** Don Grinnell, Cindy Wright

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor.
2. **Approve March 18, 2024 minutes:**

Motion by: Argy Nestor  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Keith Siegel  
6-0

3. **Welcome new committee member, Norma Hunt**
4. **Don Grinnell, Corporal Cobb update:**

Argy asked if anyone from Union served in the Civil War in the Navy. Don said they are researching the names, and it comes up which branch of service.

Don said they keep moving forward. They are 75% done researching all the names. Last count was 168 names that mustered from Union, many more than are on the monument. He brought up criteria that may have been used and said in some cities it was the members of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic), a fraternal group of Civil War veterans. He said there was a GAR post here in Union. They expect to be done by approximately the first of June.

Sonja arrived.

Don continued citizens will be able to go online and find out about their relatives. He also said the ceremony is moving along, ready at 3:00 p.m.: opening ceremony, talk about the monument and its original dedication, incorporating some of the original speech done in 1884 he thinks from the first dedication. He added back then those speeches were long and drawn out, two and a half hours or something; ours will be much less.

Ruth Ann arrived.

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Don said a historian who's written several books would be here to talk about Union Civil War veterans at Gettysburg. After that closes, they will lay the wreath. He said what's important to them is when the Union soldiers originally mustered, each time they mustered at the Old Town House then marched down the hill to the Common, where the citizens of Union gave them a sendoff before they left. They are in hopes they can convince the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine reenactors to do that same thing. If so, they will wrap up the (re)dedication with a musket volley and playing of Taps. Consensus was sounds great.

Re: 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, Ruth Ann said they are thinking maybe 12 guys. They promised to come in Friday night, Saturday, and some will stay for the Sunday close. Don asked Ruth Ann to relay that they would like them to muster at 2:30 p.m. on top of the hill Sunday (they will have picked up their encampment by then); at 2:45 p.m. walk down the hill while they do the little speech and the talk; and finish up the (re)dedication after the wreath is presented, then after that ask them to do a musket volley.

Don wanted to know if they have a bugle. Ruth Ann will check. In answer to Argy, he said a bagpiper would be all right but he wanted Taps played with a bugle, or a trumpeter. Martha said she thinks Lawrence still has his bugle. Norma will talk to Peter Stuart as a backup. Don said the bugler or trumpeter can be off to the side. In answer to Tracy, he said they will figure out how to wrap up the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine such as having a dismissal. She brought up other closing events such as the raffle drawing, burying of time capsule, and dedication of the trees. Don said he will be the MC and will turn it back over, before which we will probably dismiss the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine however they disperse.

Tracy brought up having somebody from the town reaccept the monument. Don thought lay the wreath, then probably after the playing of Taps ask a town representative to come forward to accept the rededication. Martha suggested having the select board do that.

Martha and Argy brought up reburying the time capsule before this and ending with their piece. Martha said once the Taps is played... Don said everybody is locked in for 3:00 p.m. adding later on in the day the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine guys have a problem.

In answer to Argy, Don said what he just described would take 45 minutes. Tracy confirmed they will need a PA or speaker system, also chairs. Inclement weather will be discussed later. Don suggested the pulling ring at the fairgrounds as an alternative.

In answer to Argy, re: computer setup, Don said they are coming with a canopy, a table, and all they need is a place to plug in an extension cord on the Common. He said they will set up on Saturday probably from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., then the same on Sunday. He said this booth will give anybody a chance to see if their relatives, with a name, were in the Civil War and at least get them started with their Civil War genealogy.

Tracy mentioned the book *The Next 50 Years, 1974 to 2024*, and asked Don for an electronic copy of the rededication to put into the book – to lock it in, memorialize it, and

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save people in the Tricentennial celebration from researching it. She will check with Mary Thompson.

Argy asked about how many hours he and Steve had spent on this. Don said Steve had done most of the work, and he has no idea. Argy said it's amazing; the committee really appreciates this, and it's going to be a wonderful part of the three-day celebration. Don said they will provide all the data to the library, to the town, and to the historical society. Argy confirmed basically that will be a link.

Henry brought up the National Anthem, which Don said was not adapted as the National Anthem until 1930. Don offered to come back maybe once a month to check in.

Tracy said they were measuring the grounds and noticed the monument needs to be cleaned. Don said he mentioned that a year ago. Sonja mentioned Bruce Libby. Tracy will get in touch with Bruce.

Don confirmed the last thing will be the time capsule burial. He said they will be done by 4:00 p.m. – need them at 2:30 p.m. at the Old Town House, march down for the ceremony starting at 3:00 p.m., done by 3:45 p.m. He said he could not print the schedule from the Facebook page. Tracy said it's a link on the historical society. Argy said it's been requested to put it on the town website as well.

The committee thanked Don.

### **5. Updates from Committee Members:**

Ashley via Tracy: they have a list of traditional kids' games for Saturday (on the Common by the monument): red light green light, five stones, pickle, tic tac toe board, three-legged race. Sandcastle provided a quote of \$525 for two bounce houses on Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In answer to Argy, Tracy said there has been no change in other costs at this point.

Henry said he got an email from Mr. White saying they just need to set up a meeting, which he is trying to set up, on volunteers from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Henry added he wanted to teach little kids, do the history of the Civil War like what we're doing here. He said he might know a trumpeter and will email Ruth Ann. Ruth Ann asked if he would help with the parade. More volunteers are needed.

Martha said she talked to Sandy Cox who organizes volunteers for West Bay Rotary using signup.com. She's started filling out the basic info. Sandy had a new URL, a new website, for the signups. She replied asking why he needed something separate but has not yet heard back. Argy said we could do a google site at no cost. Martha said it's a great program – people will be able to go on, sign up for what slots they want, which day, put in their info, and it will give us reports on volunteer signups.

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Martha added she still needs to hear about how many people are needed for what time slots. She offered to set up a form, as she needs that information in order to set things up. At Argy's suggestion a deadline of April 10 was decided to let Martha know what volunteers are needed. Discussion followed. Martha asked how can we reach out a little wider to get people. Argy thought we would be pleasantly surprised as soon as we say here's the link. Martha acknowledged more excitement the closer we get.

Re: t-shirts, Martha said she did not like the proof she got back so trying to get that done again. She got more hats. Argy reminded she was going to get in touch with the company that does the fair posters.

Martha brought up the Founding Descendants' Picnic. Ruth Ann and Argy said they have both been communicating with Matt at the fairgrounds. Martha said she had a great meeting with Mary Thompson and Karin at the historical society. The picnic will take place at the park at the fairgrounds. Martha said we have 19 founding fathers. If we have any sort of inclement weather, she suggested seeing if we can use the exhibition hall, take 19 booths, put one of the founding fathers in each of these booths, and have people check in there where their descendant is – write down info/pick up info. She added this will allow more space to get those charts that we need for those founding fathers. She also said she has already gotten some reactions from people saying, "This is my line..."

Argy summarized this will be an opportunity to learn about roots and connections. Martha said the historical society is very interested in this, too, as it will give them something we can digitally save and use in future years.

Martha agreed with Argy that info should get to people beforehand, and it's a good topic for a press release. Argy wondered about other ways to let people know 1) the picnic is happening and 2) you're going to have this opportunity to learn who you're related to. Martha said a press release across the state was suggested. Keith asked for details. Martha said it could be on Facebook, might need posters, and mentioned sending info to the Union alumni group. Argy said it can go to the email list. Martha suggested incorporating it in the next email, suggesting that people with doubts about their line should contact the historical society who said they'd be glad to help.

Keith suggested a signup in advance, saying a whole lot of people could theoretically show up, say 200 when we're expecting 30. Martha clarified attendees will bring their own lunches, or they could go to food vendor, so the number isn't going to matter but she would like as many as possible so they can get those lines started. She added there will be info on the first couple of generations; as people come in they can generate that line. Keith offered to help with some of the genealogy. Martha and Keith will connect on this later. Argy will put something in the newsletter going out tomorrow.

Argy brought up a QR code for the poster. Cindy said they have questions about where it will point. Martha said she would love one to go to the signup. Argy thought re: meeting with John, the QR code on the poster would send people to the historical society so they

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could see the schedule. Cindy will take care of the QR code, and Argy will take care of the poster.

Re: press releases, Keith said he and Cindy would like to send them out weekly, understanding not all will get picked up. The first one they were thinking about, if the committee agrees, is about how we've released the schedule of events. Argy suggested one on the parade, which has a May 1 deadline. Keith said he likes press releases with quotes. Martha suggested the first one should be general, overall: there's a celebration... Keith said they've done that, or they could incorporate that into the parade – reintroduce the idea and focus it on the parade; then the next one would be the schedule. The play and contra dance were mentioned. Keith said they would like help with the order. Tracy suggested a google doc which Keith will do. Cindy shared places for the information such as festivals in Maine, all the radio stations in Maine, etc.

Tracy confirmed Sonja went to all the radio stations in Maine. Sonja said Blueberry Broadcasting did not recommend being on site for the weekend. Argy forwarded Sonja's email to Cindy. Cindy talked about nonprofits getting air time and local radio stations like Belfast and WRFR. Cindy said there are only 16 weeks left. She will share her document with the committee. Argy suggested the committee furnish quotes for press releases adding they will get quotes from Adam and Jay. Tracy said the historical society can contribute, too.

Tracy said the coin went into production today. In two weeks we should be receiving them. They will be available for sale as soon as we get them. She has received a lot of content for the book and this week will start typing it out. The book deadline is mid-May. She also said we have been invited to participate in Union Farm Equipment's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary birthday celebration on April 27. She thinks Ken will find a spot for us outside. Argy mentioned selling merchandise. Tracy said we will take our float to Waldoboro's parade on June 15. Martha said Union Agway is doing an open house this Saturday. Norma mentioned Warren Day.

Ruth Ann mentioned an email from Anthony Collins who said Hope is having their parade on the same day as our parade. Argy talked with Gwen Brodis, and it sounds like a different time. Gwen will get back to Argy with definite information.

Re: parade, Ruth Ann said we have some entries. She reached out to candidates but only heard from Bill Pluecker. Re: stuffies, Keith said Rachel's pattern is crochet. Ruth Ann said the knit and stitch group at the library will come up with some, maybe split they figure and have them do 100. Keith said Rachel is currently trying out the pattern to make sure it's ok; she is happy to make a bunch and donate them but can't make 100. Ruth Ann said they will come up with people, and as soon as she has the pattern she will get it to the library ladies. Argy said if materials are needed, let her know and we can do a call on Facebook. Ruth Ann will chat with the library people.

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Ruth Ann also said she had a meeting re: road closure with Jesse and Pat Hood. She has asked Pat to get in touch with Bill re: the bus route. She has reached out to Jay about a liability form for parade participants.

Sonja said she sent a detailed email to Ben Luce re: the bus and also texted. He will get back to her. Pastor Troy at her church nicely declined to do a float (First Baptist in Waldoboro). She interviewed a couple more people, Duane Rowell and his sister Gail Mank. She also talked with Esther Farmer. Argy said they can transfer the interviews tonight by phone.

Norma said she got in touch with Lanny Dean who will need power. She reached back out to Linda Pushaw. The dying-wool-from-plants lady also needs power and access to water; she has one to two hotplates and pots and will bring her own buckets. Norma will get in touch with Chris in about a week. Argy said she has spoken with the spinners and the hookers. The spinners are coming and would like to be next to each other. Norma said Lanny has a table and is also bringing a pop-up. Argy said all the spinners and hookers have expressed that those folding metal chairs are not very pleasant; that's what we have, so anyone who would prefer something else should bring their own. Petrea Allen was mentioned and a second name in knitting that June had mentioned – Jean Rowling. Norma will call Petrea, talk to Peter Stuart tomorrow, and let Ruth Ann know.

Argy said nothing new on the bandstand. Michael said he was hoping to be creating the last work at home, so it may be underway. Nothing new on the map; we are still waiting for funding. Matt Elwell is moving out of town so we need to establish new relationships with the person who's taking the lead at the fair and the town.

### **6. Budget, sponsorships – Keith, Tracy:**

Argy said it has been submitted to the town, so the select board can have a breakdown, and a request of \$10,000 has been put in for this next budget round. She said we are expecting about six more checks at this point. Sonja will ask Dead River about sponsorship (Donna Farley's suggestion).

### **7. Approve spending from '23-'24 town's allotment of \$10,000:**

Argy said bounce houses are \$525, Community Voices film \$4,000, Dunlap Highland Band \$1,000, Down East Quintet \$600, and Shriners \$300 for a total of \$6,425. She added we are waiting on the bus and fairgrounds.

Motion to spend \$6,425 from the \$10,000 from the town for the '23-'24 budget by:  
Henry Umstead  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Keith Siegel

Argy noted the committee already approved some of it – Penny and Charlie (\$800 to \$1,000), and trash (\$475) plus Tracy said \$125 for the radios.

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Cindy suggested making some things capital expenditures such as the bandstand and map which will be permanently improved. Argy noted the bandstand has been completely paid for separately, a gift to the town.

Above motion passed,  
8-0

Tracy asked if Ruth Ann needed or could get invoices from the parade participants, and brought up how to pay parade participants. Ruth Ann said she will do it before June 30.

### **8. Proclamation – Argy:**

Argy said the draft has gone to Jay, Adam, and Jeff Nims who got back with some suggestions. She will forward it to committee members for their suggestions.

### **9. Raffle baskets – Argy for Donna Farley:**

Argy said Donna Farley (doing the baskets, unable to come tonight) sent a detailed email. The Maine authors library basket is coming along. She spoke with Rick Butler at the fair, who's putting together a basket with fair merchandise. Let her know any basket suggestions. She wondered about the time capsule – could someone win a certificate with their name, or family's name, or some official thing that would then be included in the time capsule – creating history kind of thing. Cindy suggested five or 10 and under draw a picture, like a message in a bottle, theme "my favorite thing about Union." Argy said all the children at school are creating something, and a book is being made that will go into the time capsule.

Tracy said we're doing the raffle basket drawing's at close, when the time capsule is going to be buried. Martha confirmed the wooden nickels are for raffle baskets. Tracy clarified if people bring their wooden nickel to the table where the raffle baskets are, it will be marked somehow and they get a free entry ticket to win a raffle basket – they can buy other tickets, but a wooden nickel will be worth something. Martha noted volunteers will be needed at the raffle.

### **10. Parade grand marshal:**

Argy thanked the committee for weighing in. Two names have been forwarded to the select board, and this is on their agenda for tomorrow night SB meeting.

### **11. Pop-up date – other dates:**

Argy said we'd talked about a possible pop-up date on the Common, starting to sell merchandise and give out wooden nickels, and take volunteer names Martha added. Argy asked for date suggestions. Sonja mentioned the Farmers Market. Martha will message

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Elaine. Martha said there's no reason we can't set up a few times on the Common – Saturdays, Fridays. Argy said we'll circle back.

### 12. Other:

Martha said Linda and John Mountainland will be doing their barbecue fundraiser for the Sestercentennial on May 18. She believes it will be at the lodge. In answer to Henry, Martha said we can set up there; Linda has already asked us. Martha asked if anyone knows of other events around where we can set up our tri-board and hats, etc. Argy mentioned voting day.

Argy said the town report information was submitted today.

### 13. Next meeting: April 15, 6:00 p.m.

### 14. Adjourn:

Motion by: Norma Hunt  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
8-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary