

# MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:00 p.m.**

**Committee members present:** John Loker, Anna Weber, Bill Packard, Keith Siegel, Tracy Weed, Ashley Brown, Argy Nestor, and Martha Johnston-Nash

**Missing:** Matt Blazek, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer

**Others present:** Don Grinnell, Jim Letteney, and others

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor
- 2. Introductions, welcome new committee member Anna Weber**
- 3. Minutes from last meeting:**

Motion to approve June 19, 2023 minutes by: John Loker  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Tracy Weed  
8-0

Motion to approve July 17, 2023 minutes by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Tracy Weed  
7-0-1 abstention (Siegel)

- 4. Don Grinnell, update on rededication of Soldier's Monument:**

Argy reminded the organization Don represents has offered to rededicate the monument on the Common. They are also researching the names written on the side of the monument, and that information will be given to the families of those soldiers' names on the monument.

Don said he represents The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. To belong, one needs a direct lineage to a veteran that served in the Civil War. He worked closely with Steve Gibbons, the secretary of their organization. He shared an agenda for that day.

Whatever reenactors get locked down, they found out that part of a regiment mustered at the old town hall and walked down where a sendoff was given by the citizens of Union. They would like to reenact that to kick off the rededication.

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There will be a short welcome by an MC including Civil War music. Then Ryan Schwartz, a well-known Civil War historian, will give a talk on the Civil War in the midcoast speaking for 12 to 15 minutes.

He and Steve met with the historical society on Founders Day and said they were missing a copy of the speech given in 1888 at the original dedication. Two days later it showed up in his inbox. Tracy said Mary Thompson found it. Don said some of that language will be tied into their rededication speech, which will be five to eight minutes. They would then like somebody from the town to reaccept the GAR monument, lay a wreath, and make a few remarks. Following would be more short Civil War music, a benediction, and a musket salute if it can be pulled off with the reenactors. All told it will take 45 minutes.

He said the book they were going to hand out will be electronic. They found many more Union veterans than what is on the monument. The count is currently 160. Steve is doing that research and putting it in an Excel spreadsheet; it will be available with links to three different informational sites. They plan to have two laptops onsite for this also.

He added they would need a microphone and speaker. Martha said the chamber's audio system could be available if they get some help setting it up. Timing of this event TBD. Chairs for the public will be needed. Argy said the committee will take care of the wreath, red white and blue on a tripod as Don described it.

Argy noted the bandstand is called a bandstand and not a gazebo, because the Civil War brass band came back and wanted a place to practice and perform. She suggested that be part of the research. Street closure, a temporary cover for the time capsule hole, and food options were mentioned. Reenactors were discussed and them being part of the parade.

The committee thanked Don, who said he will return in a couple months.

### **5. Jim Letteney on the Waldoboro Sestercentennial:**

Jim thanked Bill for helping out with the parade.

He said he has been working with the Waldoboro Day Committee for a quarter of a century, handling the entertainment part of it. Communication is the key, and organization. He found spreadsheets and follow-up valuable. You also have to know your audience, he added, including reaching people not online and helping them feel comfortable attending such an event, so look at communication avenues. He gave examples and added they got major sponsors. He showed the commemorative coin.

He said he got hold of Don Carrigan who lives in Walpole now. He started two months early to get to him. He said the other person is Samantha York. Channel 8 has a program that will advertise for you. He just saw another on Channel 13. He said it's important to have someone deal with that aspect. Blueberry Broadcasting has a host of radio stations; he mentioned Marilyn Quinn.

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He said they had five bands. He reemphasized communication and said be tenacious. They used *Lincoln County News*, and someone got news to the *Courier* and *Pen Bay Pilot*. *Free Press* was also part of it. In answer to Argy, he thought Maine Printing Company did the bags. The committee thanked him.

Bill mentioned David John McCoy as a resource. Martha said she also knows Don Carrigan and Marilyn Quinn.

### 6. Updates from committee members:

John said the race is penciled in for Saturday. Split Time Race Management, which ran Pour Farm races, is available Sunday but not Saturday. He can reach out to Lucas McNelly who did Waldoboro's race. Race options were discussed as well as Saturday vs. Sunday. Road closure is a question. They would make sure prizes or gift bags are covered by the entry fee. Argy said they would need an approximate cost by September 1. Keith suggested the first X number of registrants get t-shirts. In answer to Bill, John said the first year the Pour Farm did it they had 50 people, and the third year 80. A family fun run was mentioned.

The school/contacting Matt Lash was also mentioned for a timing system. Anna will look into it. Argy noted for the budget the cost of the medals and t-shirts are needed. Martha will get a cost for the shirts.

Argy said the president of the fair association will come meet with them at some point to discuss the logistics at the fairgrounds including parking.

Bill said Reade Brower, *The Free Press*, might be a good resource.

Music was discussed, including a school band. Argy asked Anna if she had reached out to Mr. Stuart yet about the parade. She had not but will, adding she is in band and jazz band. It was agreed music is something to think about for Sunday. Argy reminded that Ruth Ann originally contacted Mr. Stuart. John brought up garage bands.

Consensus was the race would be Sunday morning due to lack of traffic, and try to build up other activities to draw people to the fairgrounds and museum. It will take one hour to 90 minutes if kept to a 5k fun run. Start time will wait pending other activities such as the raft race. Bill wanted a tentative start time. Consensus was 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts. Ruckus Donuts' "Sestercentennial Donut" was mentioned.

Anna started a list of possible kids' activities. Argy said Ashley wants to connect with her.

Bill wanted to formalize the schedule as early as possible, and it is not too early connecting various things. Argy was hoping he would help with logistics. She said maps should be a type of handout showing where and when events are.

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Tracy passed around an LL Bean notebook. A passport-type program/souvenir was mentioned. Argy brought up rubber stamps at different locations, with say five stamped pages earning a donut or wooden nickel.

Bill said he will get started on the locations. Then we can put the times in. Martha said the chamber has a map he can probably work from.

Argy mentioned a Colby College Museum folder featuring a poster of an artwork on one side. Tracy said it could be a map instead.

Keith said he is struggling with the Maine Cabin Masters building a popup theater. He corresponded with Chloe by email. Everything has to go through MCM's application process, which really is for people who own a cabin. He talked to the business manager about an appearance or demonstration. She encouraged him to still go forward with the popup theater application. It needs a budget and more details than he has. She said they have cut back on appearances due to being busy, and they get \$5,000 for an appearance. He sees this as a bridge to our future, noting the popup theater would belong to the community – the fair, the chamber, the Masons, or the historical society, someone with an interest in the arts so this could travel around.

Argy and Keith will meet with Chloe.

Martha brought up the Maine Community Foundation and will get Keith info. Argy said Matt is exploring this.

Keith and Tracy will meet about the time capsule and booklet.

Tracy said they handed out close to 500 wooden nickels and over 100 pounds of candy at the Lobster Festival parade. She noted amazing engagement with the spectators. Slugger joined them for a bit. Patty Montana volunteered with Tracy's family members. She started plotting activities based on the google doc. She also drafted a sponsorship letter so we can hopefully nail down dollar amounts for specific events; she would like to take it to the historical society for their next meeting, then get them printed and start knocking on doors.

She got info from the petting zoo at the Lobster Festival while volunteering. She noted the tent was very busy all the time and a great kids' thing. She had ideas about buses.

She shared time capsule pictures with Argy and Keith and wanted to talk about exposing the vessel but not opening it this summer. She sent pictures of it to Bruce Libby. She has thoughts on not reusing it. Argy suggested more investigation before cracking the land, such as finding someone who recalls if it was sealed or not. She asked Sybil to ask Craig if he was there. Bill suggested using a new one, for which Martha mentioned Steel Pro.

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Ashley, adding the Vose Library to the Sestercentennial, thought of a Maine author book signing and reading perhaps with Chris Van Dusen. It is \$600 to have him. Argy suggested she talk with Chris de Groff, who had him at the Gibbs Library, and Kristin at the library. Ashley will also go over children's games with Anna. Bill suggested seeing if the library will sponsor Chris Van Dusen, or a business Argy added.

Argy said she and Tracy have been talking about collecting stories from individuals. Last night they went to a great show from a retired National Geographic photographer, sponsored by the Boothbay Historical Society. He is willing to meet by phone. Argy said they hope to collect the stories, create a video, and have two showings with a red carpet perhaps a couple of weeks before the Sestercentennial, then shown on a loop during the big weekend.

Kristin at the library is willing to have a storytelling event in November.

The North Union people have an extensive email list and had a barbecue with 75 or 80 people. The idea of holding multiple storytelling events in other locations came up, building toward the Sestercentennial energy, honoring the people who live in our community, the history as well as the younger people.

She spoke with Nancy Pike about genealogy at the fair. She will do an hour session on how to get started in genealogy then do a kind of intermediate follow-up class.

They gave out tons of wooden nickels at the fair and sold some hats. Irene Hawes will consider looking for something in the museum that could be in the parade. The Moxie folks have offered the Moxie car for the parade. Argy talked with Sharon Caron about having past queens in the parade.

No one has stepped forward to lead arts and crafts, but Argy spoke with the Sunday Spinners at the fair, and they would love to come and spin on the Common.

Argy added that the email list is growing.

She also said Wyman's has a little food car thing and give out little cups of frozen berries. They are willing to come, a freebie, so it would be good to think about when and where to have them.

She added the historical society is checking out the Bicentennial films with Tracy's family's projector. There is one of the raft race. During the weekend of their annual meeting in October, they will show it at the Old Town Hall. Tracy has been nominated for the historical society board. The Come Spring bus tour is in September.

Martha said Kathy Lunt might be interested in taking on the raft race. Argy said two other people are interested and meeting on whether they can do it or not. Martha

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confirmed they could do it under the Sestercentennial Committee or independently sponsored by Mic Mac or whatever.

Enough hats have sold to cover the costs so far including digitizing. Ten are left. They are making \$9 per hat. Martha suggested not ordering any more right now.

Argy mentioned the night of the historical society meeting/screening might be good to give out wooden nickels and sell hats, as well as at the start of the Come Spring bus tour.

Martha was also approached by the Robbins House b&b. No one has talked to them, and they are not on the list. Tracy said Mary Thompson sells the bus tour tickets and was talking about the route. Martha will get them in touch.

Martha said the Friday night band/concert on the Common is taken care of. Tracy mentioned a second band, part of the opening ceremony. Martha noted she is in charge of next year's concert and pie social and said they are considering a pie contest.

Re: founding descendants, Martha brought up a picnic/reunion on Sunday. Gail Hawes will help her with that. It may tie in with the genealogy thing Nancy is doing. Martha invited others to help and noted many people in the area are descended from the founding fathers. She mentioned a new list with branches of the trees outlined. A parade presence was mentioned, maybe a wagon pulled by a tractor with a rep from each of the families.

Argy mentioned the shuttle bus, and Cornhole Connections which is moving from Waldoboro to Union.

Matt submitted the following update by email:

“I have spoken to Jeff Nims of the UHS on who owns the map on the common. He believes it was gifted to the town, so they would be the ones in charge of upkeep for it. We discussed the ideas I presented to the UHS board, and they decided that they are not interested in updating the map at this time. They understand it needs to be done in the future, but they don't feel that this is the right time. I countered that this is missing a great opportunity to do something special for the 250th.

“I also voiced my concerns to Jeff regarding the long term conservation of the map, and pointed to a few key spots that are starting to quickly deteriorate, and if not addressed could affect the condition of the map. I urged him to at least discuss the possibility of updating the housing and base of the map, to both protect it better and to better match the aesthetic of the other monuments on the common. He agreed and was going to speak to the UHS board at their next meeting, which I think was yesterday.

“After speaking with my board my non profit is willing to sponsor either the bandstand plaque, or the birdhouse for the common. Depending on which we decide to go with, or one of them if we decide on both.

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“I have started reaching out to the reenactors, and am waiting for responses.”

### 7. **Next meeting date:** September 4, 2023

Motion to meet the first and third Monday of every month by: Tracy Weed  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Ashley Brown  
8-0

### 8. **Other:**

Tracy said the historical society accepted the letter of agreement. It was signed by Keith, Bruce, and Jeff. Jay has shared it with the town attorney.

Argy confirmed with Bill that porta potties and shuttle buses are logistics. Number of buses needed was briefly discussed. Tracy mentioned the Lobster Festival’s continuous loop of school buses transporting people from the school parking lot(s) to the festival entrance. Bill will reach out re: sponsorship of porta potties and buses.

Argy said someone needs to take the lead on the medallion. Tracy said she’s got it and said we just need to figure out images.

Martha will get shirt pricing and info on hats, etc. (spending) to Keith.

Argy said they received an anonymous donation with the donor suggesting we put a call out for matching and/or more donations.

Bill brought up getting the approximate number of t-shirts, banners, etc. needed to get quotes from printers.

### 9. **Adjourn:**

Motion by: Tracy Weed  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
8-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary