

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:30 p.m.**

Committee members present: Keith Siegel, Tracy Weed, Martha Johnston-Nash, Karen Strunk, Argy Nestor, Matt Blazek, Gail Hawes

1. Call Meeting to Order: at 6:30 p.m.

2. Minutes from last meeting:

Motion to approve minutes of November 16, 2022 by: Keith Siegel
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
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3. Argy update:

Press release – *Bangor Daily News, Courier, Village Soup, Pen Bay Pilot*

She sent press releases to the above; will tweak and try again in January.

Nonprofit emails – who is interested in attending meeting if requested?

The email went out to the nonprofits. It included a link to a google form with questions such as would you like to participate, do you have any ideas, etc.

Mr. Beardsley emailed that the Masons will be doing a chicken barbecue like they normally do. He will check with members for ideas.

Jim dropped put together and dropped off a list of nonprofits and for profits. We said we'd do a letter to businesses in the community but haven't talked about when and content. Martha thought end of spring sometime. Keith said it's too soon for the profits as they are not doing their 2024 budgets yet. Martha said we have to trigger their awareness. Keith said first half of 2023.

Argy said Waldoboro is having their sestercentennial this year. Martha forwarded an email they put out, an invitation for businesses to contribute money and to sponsor an event planned as part of their celebration – a different angle than we were thinking with the businesses. Martha and Keith agreed it's a nice way to get them involved. Keith suggested figuring out what we're doing and a corresponding business.

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Keith spoke with Brian at Sterlington who was excited.

Argy brought up Matt's mention of a new map on the Common. Maybe Brian with two businesses would be interested. Keith said in addition he's related to Isabel Abbott.

Matt spoke with the Camden business that does 3d maps, Rob Jones of Wooden Alchemy, who also has history in Union. He is interested in helping replace that map. Matt mentioned a map with information, like a museum in the streets. Argy said the historical society may want to help out with specific places of note.

Karen said the school has a 3d printer, and they're interested in doing some type of map with the 5th and 6th grade students. Matt mentioned creating small commemorative maps of Union that we could sell. Tracy said we could put one in the time capsule.

Karen said they're also thinking of making little clay tiles – there could be one in the bank, one in the town office, etc. Randy Fein came in a few years ago with Anthony Lufkin. They had to do a lot of research. She brought pictures. Dawn Monroe in 2016 did a published quest with her group; they'd like to update the quest and send it out to families almost like The Amazing Race. There are about 130 students including pre-K.

Matt suggested having all the students put their handprints on a big piece of paper, then roll it up and put it in the time capsule.

In answer to Keith, Matt said the time capsule is the size of a child's coffin.

Argy mentioned thinking about the original communities in Union. Steve and Denise Migliorini, who live on Clarry Hill, looked at the 1800s map which said on their property "SH." They reached out to Jeff Nims who said that's where the Clarry Hill school house was. They know where the foundation was. Matt said his property has the Coggins Hill (which was Gleason Hill) school house, with the foundation perfectly visible. Martha is across from the Shepard Hill school.

Matt said his family has been talking about partnering with University of Maine outreach that does archeological training digs to actually go over some of these school house sites. Argy said this may be a great way to connect with the kids and perhaps putting a simple display on the Common for people to learn about the different areas of Union. Richie Kahn mentioned it today again.

Matt talked with Elmer about historical signage to put up in certain places. Argy mentioned empowerment and ownership.

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Richie Kahn mentioned the historical society brought together people for presentations: Finnish, Swedish, different groups. They often did it around the holidays. Argy sent an article from the Maine Sunday Telegram. Winthrop had a Christmas Through the Ages with five homes opened up with presentations; people bought tickets and learned about celebrations from the 1740s to the 1950s. The idea originated in Kingfield. They passed it on to Philips, then Farmington, then Winthrop. We can look closely at the older homes in the community, and maybe the owners could get involved with costumes, food, etc.

Argy learned from Richie that the original library was in the Common Market on the right side. Then it moved to the Robbins House. The doorway was wrong, so they got one from the attic of the Alden House then installed it. That kind of stuff is so interesting.

Possible Committee Members – Karen Strunk, Mark Lincoln, Jenny Brooks, Nancy or Chuck Huus, Ruth Ann Wiemer, Sherry Abaldo:

Karen Strunk will be the school liaison. Keith will encourage Jenny Brooks. Sherry will continue to take the minutes but will apply. She and Buddy will be gone for the winter but glad to do things from a distance.

4. Funding sources:

Argy shared a link re: possible funding. Someone was going to check on the Pullen Fund – Buddy or Martha said she could. Jay said we'd have to run GoFundMe by the board. Matt will investigate the possible funding sources. Argy added it would be great if, once we determine activities, he/we put together a budget proposal for the select board.

Discussion of various grants and methods followed. Gail reminded this is a town committee. Matt said Maine Arts Commission and Maine Humanities Council do offer grants to municipalities.

5. Goals:

Argy said a lot of what we're doing is going to be educational so the word "education" maybe should be in our goals. Keith concurred. Matt mentioned new migration to the area.

Argy thinks the two words missing are "celebration" and "education."

Matt suggested adding #6 "to celebrate the history of Union."

Martha suggested "to educate residents and visitors about the history of the Union area and its development over time." Argy suggested adding to #5. Matt with Keith and Karen suggested "to educate and celebrate the history, growth, and future of the community of Union, with the community of Union."

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Gail said many people who attended Union's bicentennial and live in surrounding towns have expressed interest in the sestercentennial.

Argy mentioned bringing up the surrounding areas in #5. She saw similarities between what Matt just said and that one. Tracy said #5 felt restrictive, like we're missing the future component; the new statement tonight was more broad and inclusive. Discussion ensued – "to enhance a sense of connection with residents, visitors, and surrounding communities," Matt suggested. Keith suggested #5 stay as is. #6 as above. More discussion followed. Argy reminded these are goals, how we get to these goals. We'll leave "educate" out, and the action steps or other components could include the word "educate." Consensus was leave it. Argy will put it in the doc for tweaking. She is sending Sherry a clean copy for the minutes.

Communication – Inviting ideas from community members (boxes in town):

Matt suggested library, post office, banks, market – a lot of saturation for the Common area – Union Farm, Mic Mac, Pour Farm. Gail noted most people come to the Common. Martha said the Chamber has two. Goal is the middle of January. Karen suggested a gift or shoe box with a hole in the top, with a sign Martha said. Argy reminded we need to put the budget together. Tracy brought up sticking to electronic communication. Matt mentioned What's Up in Union. Martha said it's key to get our own facebook page up. Matt added Instagram. Tracy will set up the facebook page. Tracy spoke with Peter about the facebook page You Knew You Grew Up Union When being perfect for this. Matt suggested also sharing things from the Union historical society.

Argy brought up getting a younger tech-savvy person on the committee such as a high school student. Karen suggested Jethro Pease and will reach out to him re: facebook and Instagram; Argy noted he does not have to be on the committee. Karen noted his class was the one that did the quest.

6. Other business:

Gail reminded Union Fair will be in July. The historical society started at the same time: the town developed it to do the bicentennial committee. There are three people from that time: Janice Harriman, Richie Kahn, and Patty Kahn.

Argy spoke with new curator Karen at the historical society and Jeff Nims. She gave a brief update and suggested committee members to by. She will go to their meeting in January. Richie Kahn told her last time it was the historical society's thing, and they should have someone on this committee. Gail concurred this needs to be coordinated with the historical society; they can add a lot to the education piece, and she saw this committee as event planning. Matt noted no one from the historical society joined this committee. Discussion ensued.

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Everybody will circle their favorite activity ideas for the next meeting. Also circle what you're really committed to.

Matt said he is already committed to helping get the map replaced.

7. Set next meeting date: January 18, 2023

8. Adjourn:

Motion by: Keith Siegel

2nd by: Matt Blazek

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Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary