

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

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

Others present: June Norris

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor.
- 2. Approve February 5, 2024 minutes:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Tracy Weed

Argy said, re: \$2,500 labor for the bandstand, she learned the town will pay the \$2,500 – a small enough number, it does not need to go out on bid. It will be taken out of our \$10,000. Argy would like this reflected in the minutes.

Motion passed, corrected per above said Keith, 6-0

- 3. Traditional arts:**

Argy said June is working on the traditional arts with Norma Hunt. June said she's talked informally with some very enthusiastic people. She anticipates being more solid on this by the March meeting. She said the party potty info was important in talking to people. She knows people who make soap, candles, and brooms but has not yet contacted them.

Argy said Hazel Kopishke is a go, also Lanny Dean, Linda Dean, Sybil; Jody has knee surgery but will still exhibit his stuff. Her natural dying contact can't make it but will put the word out. June said she knows a natural dyer in Gardner. Argy said Norma reached out to Linda Pushaw Spence but hasn't heard back yet. She said the spinners will be there. Re: tatting, Tracy said Esther is back, and her daughter Kathy (785-2801) knows about tatting. Tracy also said she remembered somebody and texted Argy. Ruth Ann asked about basket makers. Argy said Marian Gray is on the list, and April Boucher of Common Ground Fair will be contacted.

June asked what needed by March 4. Argy replied email a short writeup, which is needed so we can plan the Common spacing.

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Argy said she confirmed with Penelope re: Sunday spinners and will find out how many spinners and what they need (chairs, etc.).

The list was reviewed: Sherwood Hilt, Lanny Dean, Frank Tichy, Brenda Page (will be called; she has one of the looms actually built in Union), Marian Gray, April, and Hazel Kopishke is all set for the rugs. June said she will work more on the broom making, candle making, and soap. She will ask the Common Ground Fair people. She added her husband is executive director of all the fairs in the state so she has numbers/contacts.

June also mentioned the Searsmont film which they showed at the Belfast theater – spectacular, and they sold videos or CDs. She said people came in with popcorn and watched their town on the big screen. Tracy asked about making it a triple, adding the school performance.

Tracy said she talked to her mom about the small 4”-5” birdhouses Bob Heald used to make. She suggested inviting the current birdhouse maker (Tom Pitzi) to have a display/demo with the Traditional Arts where he could sell them and/or take orders. Consensus: good idea. June will follow up with Tom Pitzi.

Tracy also brought up preordering some small birdhouses – buy them to sell them. She noted UHS has one, and she will send a photo. Argy said June should find out if Tom is interested in selling them and at what cost, so we could sell them; and is he interested in being in the traditional arts area demonstrating how to make a birdhouse. June said she understood selling stuff was an option and mentioned Jean Monroe, who makes hundreds of pairs of mittens each year to send to an orphanage. June will send an update.

4. Budget:

Keith said he shared the budget info at the last meeting, and nothing really has changed. Argy sent an update to Keith with contributions, which she passed around. Keith has not heard back from Brian of Sterlington.

Argy said we have gotten some money in, and others she’s approached recently have been excited about contributing. She will get a check tomorrow from JEM Construction for the unicyclists. Promises of sponsorship to cover the full page in the Courier and one to cover the draft horses. Tracy said no word yet on cornhole. Argy said the sheep dog demo is still up for grabs, but we are very close to sponsorship for it.

Argy also said Camden National Bank hasn’t had their meeting yet about the request for funding to cover the cost of the Friday night band.

In answer to Sonja, Keith said we have \$4,000 something.

Argy said she went to Union House of Pizza, one of the ones who were very enthusiastic. She is waiting to hear from Maritime Farms.

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Tracy brought up listing certain items on the parade vs. all the items on the parade (on the sponsorship form). Argy said in the emails she listed all that she knew, noting some of those expenses are smaller numbers which may be an opportunity to attract some sponsors. Ruth Ann brought up people she hasn't heard from such as Dwight Tibbetts, who said he would let us know. She said they would cost \$600 for the parade, or \$875 Saturday on the Common for 1.5 hours noting he may have misunderstood. Argy said we have the Cat's Pajamas for Saturday afternoon on the Common. In answer to Ruth Ann, Tracy said she did not think they (other music) would be needed noting Cat's Pajamas play 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tracy said the silent movie will be Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* which is finally free as the copyright has expired, with piano player.

Argy asked about how the food is shaping up. Ruth Ann said lunch or late lunch. Tracy said she sent an email later this afternoon on times for Saturday and Sunday for food provider information.

Argy said Cedar Island and Maine Outdoors are sponsoring the piper.

Before the meeting started Erica Harriman dropped off information about the beard contest. She said we hope to get the info out by the beginning of March. There is no entry fee. We have two sponsors; there may be more, but we haven't approached anybody yet. Whatever they bring in will be the prizes; this will be figured out closer to the time.

Martha read aloud the categories: longest and full, shortest and full, best styled mustache, best full beard with styled mustache, freestyle, pompous partial, and best overall. Argy said there will be audience participation for determining the winners. She said Erica would like to give cash and was wondering how to handle that. Argy said she will check with Bruce, or if Keith would like to check – he could give Erica cash, or a check that she can cash to give out the cash prizes. She noted whatever posters they make will also be covered by the sponsors. They will need two tables, chairs, and a microphone. Tracy will email to see if biker beard counts as a category.

5. Filmmaker/marketing plan:

Argy reached out to couple of people about being in charge of marketing. She was told that the committee is doing fine and that we don't need one. She recapped marketing progress:

Social media, Instagram and Facebook, posts every two or three days, reaching almost 400 people.

Wooden nickels are now at UHS, town office, and Vose Library. We could expand to Camden National Bank, Bangor Savings, the food bank and any other places where we could put a bowl, maybe House of Pizza. In answer to Sonja, Keith said the nickels are promotional and can be turned in for a raffle ticket. Argy said we had 2,500 and are down

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to about 500. Keith said he has 200 or so. Tracy suggested having them at the Methodist Church, Argy said via Sybil. Sonja will ask at her church in Waldoboro.

Sonja will also ask about the float that her church had in Waldoboro's parade. Tracy suggested a calling out for floats from other communities and organizations where we had a float.

Sonja asked if Ronnie Taylor has old cars. Ruth Ann said John Shepard is pulling together the Maine Sports Car Association; Owls Head has an event that day, but their volunteer coordinator is reaching out to their members who also have antique cars. Sonja mentioned street rods; Juanita and Roger Hunt are into it. Tracy said Delano's Seafood does a drive-in every Wednesday night. Argy reminded- they will be in the parade then a drive-in at the fairgrounds. Argy said Shani said she'd be glad to drive hers in the parade with a dignitary but hers is not old. Ruth Ann said they talked about Shani driving the grand marshal.

Argy said she will get wooden nickels to Sybil. Ruth Ann has 50 or so and will take them to House of Pizza and Camden National Bank. Keith will take some to the food bank and check on their parade float.

Argy said our email updates go out about once a month. We have approximately 120 people on the list. We can expand at March voting and continue to have a sign-up place at Vose Library.

Tracy said UHS has a newsletter going out in April and suggested a blurb about getting Sestercentennial updates. Martha said she hoped there'd be something about volunteers in there as well.

Argy said she started a volunteer list and invited people to add to it. Martha said we should look at it and start planning certain people for certain things. Argy will email people on the broad list to ask for volunteers.

Voting is March 5. It was decided to have the table inside but no people per town/voting rules. Argy will take the display from the library and bring it to the town office on the 5th.

Re: Mason's Easter breakfast on March 31, Martha said she probably could do that. Argy will get her the display from Vose library. Ruth Ann can do the June 1 plant sale. Keith can do the June 1 art show, to which Argy said we have been invited. Argy noted we only have one display, so we have to come up with something else.

Argy also said Linda offered to host a chicken barbecue at the Masonic hall to raise money for the Sestercentennial. Consensus was this is great. Date TBD. At Tracy's suggestion Argy will see if Linda would like help and added we can have a table there.

6. Funding – sponsorships, buckets in businesses, chicken barbecue: Above.

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7. 3-day schedule:

Martha said she would like to be able to give the schedule to people to show them what's happening and generate excitement. Tracy said she would like to get the word "draft" off, noting we're putting it into the Sestercentennial book which goes to the publisher at the end of May/beginning of June. Keith suggested finalizing the schedule by the March 18 meeting. Tracy said in the meantime feel free to pass it out.

8. Updates/Partnerships: Above.

9. Volunteers: Above.

10. Approve spending:

Motion that we approve the bandstand expenditure of \$2,500 which will be coming from the town by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Keith Siegel
6-0

There was discussion of two options from C2 Productions, advertising and documentation of the three days. Argy noted we have a sponsor for the one-page ad in the July 11 Courier Gazette newspaper.

Motion to go with documentation by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Keith Siegel

Tracy and Sonja asked what the motion was.

Amended motion that we go with the C2 Productions documentation of the three days of the film and utilize that afterwards by: Martha Johnston-Nash

Tracy asked about copyright. Argy said she didn't know about marketing or selling it, but it would belong to the town.

2nd by: Ruth Ann Senff-Wierner

In answer to Tracy, Argy said we can ask about the copyright and spell it out re: if we reproduce and sell it. Tracy confirmed we can back out of it if we decide to. Keith said this is just committing the funds. Argy said the advertising would be paid up front, while the filming cost would be paid when it's presented to us. Argy asked committee members

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to send her all the questions; she will forward and cc their responses. It was reiterated this vote is just the documentation.

Above motion passed, 6-0

Argy said we are going to table the advertising piece until we get more information.

Sonja said she has talked with radio stations. She got a list of all the radio stations in Maine and said Blueberry Advertising in Augusta owns a lot. They do ads all over the state. Argy said she thinks we're going to have to do more advertising and noted Rachael did a little bit of research on road signs and banner prices.

Keith left the meeting.

Motion to approve \$375 trash/dumpster for the weekend by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Tracy Weed

Martha asked about garbage bags. Argy said they are for the 55 gallon drums for the fair that we have to move to the Common and at the fairgrounds as well.

Amended motion to approve the trash costs of \$375 for the 8 yard dumpster and the \$100 for the trash bags by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Tracy Weed
5-0

11. More on the schedule:

Tracy printed out colored copies. She added in the food vendors for the Common. UHS will be doing the bus tour on Saturday morning, so she scratched out self-guided walking and cemetery tours. Saturday is the pancake breakfast and the bus tour – she listed merchandise tables at both locations (Common and fairgrounds) so we can use it as a count for the number of volunteers we'll need.

She said UHS will do two different walking tours – a sponsored event – featuring a new tour they have not done before. It will start at the Old Town House and highlight the significance of Cobb's ledge, the townhouse, go down toward where Edna St. Vincent Millay grew up, come back up toward the Robbins house and end up on the Common. It will take about an hour. They are planning for at least one group and will have a couple tour guides. In answer to Argy, Tracy said the bus tour starts at the Old Town House as well. She added UHS will do a second walking tour on Sunday, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Argy said Rachael is working on music by the Chamber Friday night. Ruth Ann said she emailed about 20th Maine attending the closing ceremony but no word back yet. Martha noted we still have activities going on at the fairgrounds (softball, vendors) after the closing ceremony and suggested having food vendors until 3:00 p.m. Tracy said she had a

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question for Ruth Ann about food vendors on Sunday, and she needs to check with Matt about the café being open Friday night for the concert. Ruth Ann will text Pat Hood re: confirming the softball game location (presumably fairgrounds).

12. Next meeting: March 18

13. Adjourn:

Motion by: Tracy Weed
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary