

# MINUTES

## SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS 6:00 p.m.

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

**Others present:** Rachael Umstead

### 1. **Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by: Keith Siegel

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Tracy Weed

4-0

Argy handed out paperwork. Ruth Ann arrived.

### 2. **Library:**

Re: storytelling Argy said there is one more person than last time. Chris deGroff will do the moderating. We await a blurb on the last person. Argy referred to a document and asked committee members to email her with the names of anyone in light or white that they think need to be included as interviewees.

Martha arrived.

In answer to Ruth Ann, Argy said that in order to come up with the list of names she sat with a few different people and got their opinions. She said Carol Scott (Tracy's mother) was really helpful. The list is currently at 130 people.

### 3. **Promotional & Communications:**

Argy said we have almost 400 Facebook followers. She started an Instagram and noted the hope is to put items on Instagram which will automatically go to Facebook. We also have a newsletter.

Argy reached out to Reade Brower about two things. 1) The Courier has a column for Washington and Waldoboro but not Union. She spoke with him about that. 2) She also spoke with him about advertising and referred to an insert that could go with the weekly sales flyers in mailboxes. They can also send a single 8.5" x 11" sheet that would be folded and could go to multiple towns.

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Argy said the towns and costs were at the bottom of the handout. She said Reade emailed the Courier leadership which is connected with the Ellsworth newspaper. Two people got back to her. One said they were exploring the idea of an insert in the newspaper, but it would mean selling ads, and they didn't think there were enough businesses in Union.

In answer to Rachael, Argy said it would be a one-time thing and she did not have the cost information. Rachael would like to offer it to some of their members or have the Chamber do it as a group.

Argy read aloud the email, which said the ad team "didn't feel there were enough businesses in Union to build some kind of grouping page in the Courier. That said, if you can find a sponsor for a full page, we'll give the sponsor a 3" tall banner across the bottom of the page and allow you to supply whatever celebration information (schedule, location, events, etc.). We could run the page a week before the event weekend."

Also in answer to Rachael, Argy said re: a town column, Christine Simmonds replied that she knew they had published stories about the Sestercentennial celebration when it was first being planned because she wrote them. Christine suggested sending press releases as the event approaches ([news@villagesoup.com](mailto:news@villagesoup.com)). Christine also said she would be at the select board meeting and could talk about the column which she already discussed with the higher ups. She had also seen Reade's email about it.

Also in answer to Rachael, Argy said no press release on the band yet.

Argy said Keith has been writing and sending press releases but we have heard nothing from the last two, which Keith confirmed.

Martha confirmed Christine is managing editor and also confirmed the above news email.

Discussion included save the date cards, contacting town halls, and getting posters in town halls and libraries as well as the Common Market bulletin board. Rachael mentioned direct mail. Martha said the Chamber has a bulk mail permit, which Rachael will look into. Keith said he liked the idea of the full-page ad; the group concurred. Argy added that's what they did 50 years ago for the Bicentennial, and we have a copy. Keith suggested reproducing and/or modernizing it.

Tracy said Waldoboro put up their Sestercentennial posters about three weeks before the event. She voiced concern about putting information up too early.

Keith mentioned Belfast's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday banner and suggested putting banners outside the town office and/or fire station. Martha suggested the Common as well as defining what the purpose would be and dates to get it up by. Henry suggested the entrance to town. Argy said we had the giant banner made and had talked about it going on the Common; we had two smaller ones for the float. Discussion followed.

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The cost of more banners vs. flyers was discussed. Tracy said the big banner cost \$300. Martha suggested 8' banners for much less cost. Rachael said KDK made the Christmas banner for \$171 including design time. Argy said ours was camera ready, by Maine Printing in Warren. We need to determine how many more banners are needed, what size, how much they would cost, and also signs. Tracy said the historical society newsletter comes out soon with Sestercentennial coverage; she will find out if it goes to all the homes in Union. Henry brought up advertising in the Union Fair program and premium book. Rachael said she will check out prices.

In answer to Ruth Ann, Argy said publishing the schedule in the paper the week before would have to be voted on because it's spending money. Argy added the motion might include we are willing to spend money on the promotional pieces; maybe at the next meeting we can do that because we will have the costs.

Argy will check with Sharon Caron on fair premium book ad costs/fair publication costs. Martha said they have card size as well.

Keith confirmed Argy will get the price of the full-page ad in the Courier.

#### **4. Cards and stickers:**

Argy said everyone needs to start asking people to volunteer that weekend – parade help, sell t-shirts and other memorabilia, etc. Martha said a list with emails is already started. Tracy brought up a volunteer coordinator. Argy said we need to think about how to distinguish volunteers– t-shirts, arm bands, etc.

Tracy said one question was do we want to have thank you note cards printed and/or a window decal or bumper sticker.

Tracy got prices for note cards and stickers. She said for note cards – printed, four colors, one side, 6"x9", scored and folded – the price would be \$50 for 100 with each additional card \$.30 each. Envelopes would be \$.11 each.

Tracy said she had two quotes for stickers. One company – static cling bumper stickers, printed four color, 5" circle – would range from 100 for \$510 to up to 1,000 for \$930. Regular bumper stickers – four color, 5" circle – would be 100 for \$460 to up to 1,000 for \$800. In answer to Martha, Tracy said they were thinking about selling them. Tracy continued that company two offered 3.5" diameter stickers, 100 for \$55, 250 for \$137.50, 500 for \$275 so about \$.55 per sticker regardless of how many we order.

Martha noted saturation in how much we could sell, noting we have hats, t-shirts, coins, etc. Argy said she was thinking about having stickers as something for a child rather than selling them, like the Bicentennial cardboard hats. Consensus was revisit this.

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### 5. Schedule:

Tracy led the group through the following.

#### *FRIDAY*

- Matthews Museum open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kick off ceremony 4:00 p.m.
- Rachael suggested bumping up merchandise table opening for above.
- Kids' activities on the Common 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Bicentennial movie (half hour) 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Old Town House  
List food vendors so families know what they have for food options.
- Pie social suggested start 5:30 p.m. – Rachael will confirm and suggested maybe a band if around bandstand.
- Evening bus tour, historical society – start and finish TBD – Tracy will find out.
- Concert at the fairgrounds 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (not approved to be publicized yet, awaiting final contracts)
- Mention of selling merchandise at fairgrounds
- Self-guided walking tours for cemetery and Common (Tracy will follow up, historical society will have a script/piece of paper for people to pick up)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Maine setting up Friday night

#### *SATURDAY*

- Free pancake breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., done by the church
- Guided walking tours (Tracy will check with historical society)
- Lobster lady children's book reading
- Company B of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine at the fairgrounds, demonstrations 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Bus tour TBD
- Kids' activities on the Common 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Traditional arts on the Common 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Matthews Museum open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Parade 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (route TBD pending DOT, state police approval)
- Chicken barbecue on the Common by the Masons
- Cemetery tour TBD (Tracy will check with historical society – same as bus tour or different)
- Beard contest on the Common 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Union Community Voices film (1 hour) at the Old Town Hall 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and probably also shown on a loop
- The Cat's Pajamas (Ray Montana's band) on the Common 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Silent movie with live piano player at the Old Town Hall 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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- Car show at the fairgrounds 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Ruth Ann said vintage cars from Maine Sports Car Club; John Shepard is working on it. Autos will be in parade then do a drive-in.)
- Circus arts demo at the fairgrounds 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Ruth Ann said she spoke with this school today, Woodside Elementary in Topsham; they have juggling, plate spinning, unicyclists. For a \$200 donation they will be in the parade and also do a show.)
- Sheep dog demo at the fairgrounds 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Ruth Ann said this has to be enclosed, maybe in the Pullen Building – she has to get hold of Matt Elwell. She added this lady is in Washington and very flexible.)

Ruth Ann said she has been trying to get hold of Matt Elwell (re: 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, fire pit, etc.). She will forward Martha an email she sent to him.

A deadline for commitments was mentioned, for printing schedules, newspaper ads, etc. Martha mentioned April 1 or May 1.

Tracy brought up the Family Café (restaurant on fairgrounds) being open or not on Saturday. With 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, car show, circus arts, and sheep dog demo, it seemed more likely we would want it open.

Exact locations for the various events were discussed. Argy noted that Bob Oxtan, who's communicating with Ruth Ann, will be a great help with the parade order.

Tracy noted we need volunteers for each section including three merchandise tables, one on the fairgrounds. Martha suggested having the merchandise tables open at 9:00 a.m.

### *SUNDAY*

- Gospel music hour on the Common 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Church service on the Common starting at 10:45 a.m.
- Company B opens at 9:00 a.m.
- Bounce houses at the fairgrounds TBD, maybe 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., probably two adult monitors
- Descendants' picnic; Sherman Park a good spot
- Antique auction preview 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Sharon Caron spoke with Bruce Gamage; talk about doing it in Blueberry Acres)
- Antique auction starting at 1:00 p.m. (Martha asked if attendees would be sitting or standing)
- Parks & Rec softball game, set up of field a question for Matt, maybe at fairgrounds T-ball field
- Union Community Voices film 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Corporal Cobb on Common doing ancestry information
- Pine Tree Boating Club at Ayer Park

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- Kids' activities on the Common
- Sundaes on Sunday with birthday cake on the Common 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Tracy noted need to order cake)
- Closing ceremony starts at 3:00 p.m. including rededication of Civil War Monument by Don Grinnell/Corporal Cobb and wreath laying (two wreaths, by Jenny Brooks or Martha suggested Moosehead or Wreaths Across America/Hope cemetery person for the second wreath)
- Raffle drawings
- Time capsule burial
- Tree dedication

Tracy said she spoke to Cornhole Connection. They are excited to be there, and we have got to work on sponsorship for them.

Ruth Ann will check to see if 20<sup>th</sup> Maine will be able to stay for the closing.

### **6. Other:**

Henry said Alison Davis emailed back re: history club at Union school. He will talk with Mr. White after winter break. He suggested running info in the school papers which are online. Argy said she spoke with Alison about the school newsletter, and all things Sestercentennial will be going in there: two artist residencies, community dance, community performance, pickleball for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, family pickleball event the weekend before the Sestercentennial. Argy said all will go into their (Union Elementary) newsletters, but she didn't know about middle or high school.

### **7. Sponsorships:**

Argy said the sponsorship papers have been updated. She had six and will email Martha and Rachael, who will solicit.

### **8. Bandstand and Map:**

Re: bandstand, Argy said we have donated materials for roof, paints, and latticework. We have a carpenter who will do painting and carpentry, who donated the above. Our only cost will be his labor. She said she learned this \$2,500 bandstand labor amount can be taken out of our \$10,000 from the town; it is a small enough number that it does not have to go out on bid.

Re: map, Argy handed out information. She said the proposal showed one side a newly painted map adapted from the original to include "you are here" and a perspective. The second side will include images as well as the original image honoring the history of the map and early settlers. She said it will be painted with a hard finish that will hold up long term so no plexiglass and positioned vertically so no sun damage. The suggestion is to move it back so the legs don't deteriorate as in the past due to road salt. Local granite will

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be used for the base to complement the Civil War Monument and reference local mining from history. In answer to Martha, Argy said we have no cost yet – the cost will be from the artist who can't give us a price until she has specs. Argy added there's a good chance we will be able to collect donations from two different sources on this. She asked for feedback, comments, or suggestions. It will go to the historical society next week for conversation.

Tracy mentioned Jesse Casas' father who does stonework. Argy said he's on the list and Kurt Snyder who has a place on Crawford and may donate. She said there are about five possibilities for stone masons. Plus Matt has reached out to 3.

### 9. Email Updates:

#### *From Sonja Burns via email:*

She interviewed Alfred and Bertha Luce, Dwight and Nancy Howard, and Herbert Harriman. She plans on interviewing Dwayne Rowell and his sister Gail Mank soon.

She contacted Rosie Gerry who declined to drive one of his antique cars in the parade but offered to entertain that weekend. He has not responded to her request about anyone else with an antique car willing to drive it in the parade. She plans to contact the Owls Head Transportation Museum for suggestions and also welcomes any suggestions.

She has a list of all Maine radio stations and plans on contacting those nearest Union to see if they will come and cover Sestercentennial weekend. The station in Rockland has not yet responded to her email. She may have to call them. Suggestions welcome.

#### *From Matt Blazek via email:*

He spoke to Paul Dudley of 20<sup>th</sup> Maine who also has been speaking with Ruth Ann. They would like to do the rededication but have concerns about attending anything on a Sunday due to distance.

Two groups he had invited to take part in the living history timeline have disbanded. He does not think there is time to backfill another group. He would pivot to the idea of having the 20<sup>th</sup> set up an encampment at the Old Town House.

The map seems to be progressing in a positive direction and a lot of good people working on it.

He regretfully tendered his resignation from the Sestercentennial Committee due to work commitments with a new position. He thanked the committee and believes this will be a fantastic event for the town of Union.

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### *From Argy Nestor via email:*

- Storytelling at the Vose Library on Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. with seven story tellers: Sally Wentworth Moore, Jody Wentworth, Bonnie Packard, Kali Mitchell, Rick Linscott, Ruth Leonard, Wayne Kirkpatrick. Chris deGroff will be the moderator.
- About 40 storytellers will be recorded by the time of deadline, end of February. Sonja Burns and Petrea Allen are helping with the audio recording.
- Grant has been applied for to the Maine Humanities Council. If received it will cover the cost of the film being made from the stories, plus a follow up day to review the film, process who we are as a community and what the future might hold. This will include a workshop for young children and a second one for teens and adults. The outcome will be visual art work made into a book. We'll know by the middle of March whether we are awarded the funding. Sherry Cobb helped with grant writing plus other colleagues.
- Buddy Savage has secured the band, Enter the Haggis, for Friday night, July 19, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Union Fairgrounds. Funding to support this has been requested from the Camden National Bank. Working with Tracy and Bruce Cobb, treasurer of UHS.
- Pickleball is underway at Union Elementary School. Patti Montana is teaching with Phys Ed teacher Darcy Kelly and grade 5 and 6 students. The weekend of July 13 and 14 there will be a pickleball scramble for families in conjunction with the Sestercentennial. Stuart Finkelstein, Jane Funk, and Argy are helping with teaching.
- Artists residencies – Union School principal Scott White and elementary staff are excited about the work going on at the school over the next four months.
  - Dance residency with Chrissy Fowler is underway at school with students in PreK-6 during Phys Ed classes with Darcy Kelly.
  - Musical of Union's history was written by Scott Dyer who is working with students in PreK-6 during music classes.

Contra dance for families and a second one for the greater community will be the culmination of the dance residency.

Musical performance for families and a second one for the greater community will be the culmination of Scott Dyer's work.

Both will include learning the history of Union through hands-on arts integration approach. Funding was provided by the Pullen Fund, and the dance was supported also by Flying Shoes, based in Belfast.

- Bandstand – after several conversations and visits to the bandstand with carpenters, painters, roofers, and people who do construction work the following have been determined as next steps:
  - Scott Sabins has secured a donation from Hammond Lumber for materials needed to replace the roof, \$433.62 plus nails.
  - Michael Colson has donated cost of paints and lattice, \$194.10+, and will be repairing and repainting the bandstand. He will have the necessary paperwork: insurance and independent contract status. Cost: \$2,500. The town will not pay for this work.
  - Jody Wentworth and Lanny Dean will work with Josh White and Michael Colson on the spire and ball, at the top of the bandstand.



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- Matt Elwell will be taking care of the railroad ties.
- Stephanie Turner, who has been taking care of the plantings around the bandstand, has been communicated with about the work on the bandstand.
- Map – after several conversations with people knowledgeable about the map, ideas are being formulated that will be shared with the UHS

Both the bandstand and map plans will be shared with the Select Board in the future.

- Vic Pease is purchasing a large tree that will be planted near the bandstand and will be dedicated to Randy Scott during the Sestercentennial.
- Celebratingunions250years is now on Instagram!
- Jay Feyler shared that John Loker has resigned from the Sestercentennial Committee.

### **10. Approve minutes from last meeting:**

Motion to approve minutes from January 15, 2024 by: Keith Siegel  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Tracy Weed

Amended motion to approve minutes from January 15, 2024 w/small changes by Martha to be approved next meeting by: Keith Siegel  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Tracy Weed  
6-0

### **11. Next meeting:** February 19, 2024

### **12. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Tracy Weed  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Ashley Brown  
6-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary