

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 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), Ashley Brown, Tracey Weed, Argy Nestor, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer

Others present: Sharon Caron, Rachael Umstead, Gail Hawes, and others

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. Approve minutes from last meeting:** November 20, 2023 minutes approved.
- 3. Welcome new committee members Sonja Burns and Henry Umstead**
- 4. Relationship with Chamber:**
- 5. Raffle baskets – Donna Farley:**

NOTE: TOWN HALL STREAMS BEGAN @ 6:33 P.M. – MEETING IN PROGRESS.

6. Three-day schedule:

Argy handed out a draft of the three-day schedule.

The auction was discussed. Gail said 50 years ago there was a lot of furniture, dishes, etc. She said they don't have the antique festival at the fairgrounds anymore, so we may get some of those people. She added when the fair did the farm implements, tools, etc. it was wildly popular. Tracy said we could do the auction Saturday or Sunday.

Argy said we had talked about having the auction on Sunday because we have a couple of other things happening down there (cornhole tournament, softball game), and the Matthews Museum will be open. Inaudible crosstalk.

Argy said they had some questions they hoped Sharon could answer. Tracy said the location sounds like it would be in the craft barn, the first building where usually the craft people are at the fair. Sharon confirmed and said it would be cleared out after the fair.

Tracy said their third question (will circle back to date/time) is will this be open door or a fee to go in? Sharon said if we do it like a regular auction, there will be a time when people can come in and view what's available. Then the auction would start. Attendees

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would get a bidding card. Tracy confirmed there is no fee associated with it. Martha confirmed no consignment, it would be pure donations. Tracy brought up what type of items. Sharon reiterated what Gail said about furniture, dishes, silverware, etc. last time – like a flea market but better quality. Argy mentioned noticing a lot of glass; Gail concurred and said there was antique stuff, people cleaning out old houses, etc. Tracy said no restrictions other than nothing junky or size as long as it's moveable. Sharon said as long as we've got a crew to help us – items will need to be brought up as people bid on things. Options for runners were discussed.

Re: where money earned from the auction will go, Argy said they had talked about it being split between whatever organizations donated to it – Matthews Museum/Moxie, the historical society, etc. Martha confirmed Sharon had not thought of it as a fair event.

Tracy asked where and when auction items should be dropped off. Sharon will start thinking about it. The fair will be going on. Sharon added we will need a list of items beforehand, and starting bids. Tracy clarified we don't need an answer right now. Argy said we need somebody with a big dry empty barn. In answer to Tracy, Sharon said she and Bruce will work on the list; usually they take pictures of the primary items. Tracy brought up press releases to promote the auction, which will be worked on together.

Re: the last event on Sunday, Tracy said the closing ceremony on the Common is scheduled to start at 3:00 p.m.

Argy brought up what's on their tick list and action steps. She mentioned antique boats at Ayer park, cornhole and softball at the fairgrounds. They are thinking of doing the softball game at the fairgrounds where T-ball used to be.

Gail mentioned ensuring there is no horse show that weekend. Tracy said Matt told them nothing was going on.

Argy said the auction time would be 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Consensus was it would last last approximately an hour and a half. Noon to 1:00 p.m. was mentioned as preview. Argy said back to the Common for the Sunday Sundae, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and closing at 3:00 p.m., adding cake (a giant birthday cake). Argy said they need to revisit Sundae's times. Research will be done. Argy said one of the unknowns is the sheep demo – Saturday or Sunday. She said we also don't know about the reenactors. Tracy clarified this would be a living timeline of the wars during that period; they do not reenact the war. Argy said they're meeting this week, so we'll know in a couple weeks whether they are available or not.

Argy said the other unknown is the descendants' picnic, likely Sunday afternoon. Gail said it would work well at the fairgrounds with the other stuff going on, maybe in the park. Martha thought they'd need a bigger space than the park.

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Argy said we need to have the schedule finalized in a week. Tracy said the next meeting isn't until February, and we need to get publishing stuff done – the other organizations they are asking to be part of this, etc.

Argy said the raffle drawing is happening at the closing ceremony. Livestreaming it was suggested. Getting in touch with the winner(s) was discussed.

Argy said we need concrete stuff by January 22. It was reiterated that the auction would need an hour for the preview and an hour and a half for the auction. A Saturday afternoon preview was mentioned by Tracy. Sharon will check, noting the auctioneer is usually there for the preview. Coins from the Bicentennial were mentioned.

Henry brought up hosting events at Mic Mac Cove. Consensus was it's too far away. Argy said Mic Mac would be coming this way for cornhole.

Tracy said they will solidify the timeline via email.

7. Updates:

Re: parade, Ruth Ann said she has been focusing on rounding up commitments to floats. Floats from the Methodist Church, Parks and Rec, and the library are the only ones she has so far. We also want veterans. She has not heard back re: blueberry queens. Sharon said they put a float together for Rockland's holiday lights. Argy said it would be cool to have however many are alive. Gail said the first year of the Blueberry Queen was 1959, and they had a big cooking contest. Gail will help round up as many (former blueberry queens) as are interested, noting many contacts are available through social media. Argy mentioned some of them riding in cars.

Rachael suggested sending out an email from the chamber asking for floats. She will bring up at the meeting this week. Having a prize for floats was mentioned. Gail suggested having a commercial category. Contacting other parade coordinators was also mentioned.

Re: Clydesdales, Ruth Ann said she won't hear until 45 days out. Rachael mentioned a contact for rides. Ruth Ann said we will have draft pulling from Leonard's Mills. She wanted some descendants to ride in the wagon and other descendants in the parade; Gail will help. There will also be a sheep herding demo.

Ruth Ann said the Hope, Appleton, and Union fire departments are on board. Tracy suggested warren, Waldoboro, Washington, and Vinalhaven as well, noting Bill Packard was in touch. Mutual aid was mentioned. Ruth Ann will be in touch with Bill. Camden was also mentioned.

Re: kids' activities, Ashley said on Friday will be face painting and a scavenger hunt tying in the history of the Common and its functionality. They are thinking about a prize

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like a book, maybe a signed copy of the lobster lady book, if they get that on the schedule for Saturday. Also on Saturday on the Common will be traditional games – sack races, egg races, etc. with the theme of looking back. On Sunday there will be bounce houses on the fairgrounds – she needs to pin down Sandcastle – then modern games with the theme of looking ahead.

Ashley added she has started looking for photo booth props. She also suggested turning Sundaes Sunday into Union's birthday party – games, hats, photo booth, ice cream and cake. In answer to Argy, she said she does not yet have the costs for Sandcastle, and she just started gathering costs for the photo booth which will be out of pocket, not even \$20. She is trying to get in touch with Jane and Stewart who had the summer camp. Argy said she saw Jane, and they have been brainstorming. Ashley will reach out to them. She has not heard from Clairlynn but has her and Anna's contact info. She has not heard from the Medomak Valley band. Ruth Ann said she has called multiple times. Ashley will talk to Peter.

Re: hats and t-shirts, Martha said it's been on the back burner for a few months. We need to think about ordering t-shirts soon and more hats (six left). Argy said she texted about somebody wanting a hat. Argy suggested that Martha look at the calendar and at the next meeting make a decision about when to move on the shirts, including coming up with colors, sizes, etc. Martha said the sizes are pretty standard, a range, mostly large for adults, and small adults can often go for kids; the logo must be shrunk for kids' sizes. Argy thought we decided no kids' sizes. Martha said there will be a variety of colors. Tracy asked about selling sponsorship options on the shirts to help cover the cost. Martha said she will pull stuff together for the next meeting, noting we should start selling the merchandise by March or April. We should know the events we could be selling them at. There are a couple of historical society events at the old town hall coming up.

Re: approaching the school, Henry will be doing that soon. Argy said they had talked about Henry interviewing Richard Morgan. She will provide questions. She noted that his grandmother and Petrea Allen are also doing a few of those interviews. Argy added the goal is to have all the audio interviews done by March 1. She noted we are applying for a \$7,500 grant to pay the filmmaker and do some attached activities. Tracy said the Morgan's Mills interview is going in the program book as part of one of our waterway sections; Argy added along with using bits of it in the film.

Re: the bandstand, Argy said we probably need confirmation from the group about details. She said thanks to Scot Sabins' donation of shingles and all the materials needed to do the roof, from Hammond Lumber, we have met with a contractor for both the roof and painting. He is also donating materials for the painting, so we will just be paying for the labor. He could start work as soon as the weather's good.

Argy added the select board said at the meeting to go ahead with the project, as long as we have somebody with insurance and can do the work. She said we have

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recommendations on this person and have also reached out to two other people but have not gotten estimates from them.

Re: the map, Argy said we are not in a position to secure that moving forward yet but are exploring lots of options and having lots of conversations with lots of people looking at it and providing feedback and opinions. She added that she thinks it's exciting we are addressing both the bandstand and the map, noting we have a lot to be proud of about the Common, and there will be lots of activities there.

Argy also mentioned a tree being planted beforehand, signage on the Common which will go to the select board for approval before moving ahead, and a "Welcome to Union" birdhouse.

The (Bicentennial) dedication of the sign was discussed. Argy said she is looking for someone who recalls when Donna Morine's painting was installed in 1982, or she did it in 1982 – someone who may have pictures or recalls if it was painted on top of the old one. She added it was first done by a woman who lived across from Janice Linscott; the people who now live there own the carpet cleaning place on Manktown Road and just gave us a big donation.

Martha asked for a list of business sponsorships, which Argy will email.

Update from Tracy Weed via email:

A UHS subcommittee has started work on the booklet. Starting out they will meet every Friday morning, with the next meeting January 19. The quote for color covers and 60 black and white pages is \$1,100. Over the next several meetings they will know if they will be within the 60 page range or more. (Her thought is more.)

At the December meeting the UHS discussed their contributions to the weekend of activities:

- Bus Tour – two tours. Friday evening and perhaps Sunday morning.
- Cemetery Tour at the Common Cemetery. UHS has a map of the cemetery which they can provide. The Hawes family plans to refurbish some of the stones.
- Silent Movie Saturday night at the OTH at 7:00 p.m. Popcorn machine may be available at Camden National Bank for us to provide popcorn to attendees.
- Walking Tours – Saturday morning to start at 8:00 a.m.
- The Society will have a table on the Common and will have the Robbins House open for the weekend.
- A photo display of the Bicentennial will be set up.
- PowerPoints on Augustus Thompson and Edna St. Vincent Millay at our monthly meetings in May and June.
- Water Tour is a possibility – Lyle Cramer and Marion Gray did a tour in the past; perhaps Jan Cramer or Marion have notes of the past tours.

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Re: time capsule, nothing new to report. Union Farm and Steel-Pro have both expressed interest in sponsoring the capsule. We'll start getting more activity as we near the end of "winter" and get ready for a busy (and muddy) spring.

Update from Keith Siegel via email:

We have continued to receive donations. As of January 10, 2024 we have a balance of \$4,053 in cash.

Update from Matt Blazek via email:

He made a call to the 20th Maine people and is waiting for a call back. He is not sure when their January meeting is/was. The Revolutionary War reenactors he invited from Camden have left the hobby, so they are out. If he can't find another group ASAP, the timeline idea should be scrapped, perhaps just having the 20th encampment if they decide to come.

Re: the map, he has called three landscaping services, and stone works services, and is waiting to hear if they will look at his proposal and provide quotes for the work. He still has one more to check (Stonescapes, Rt. 90 Rockport). They have some experience with sign installs so may be able to do the whole thing. He will keep the committee posted and submit a budgeted project proposal by the next meeting.

He is also interested in hearing what the people Argy met with said, which may give us an avenue to proceed.

Update from Argy Nestor via email:

Tracy, Mike, and she met on the Common last Sunday with Andy White. He suggested a case to give the map a more prominent display. He is creating a visual of the idea. He is reaching out to stonemason Curt Snyder about corner posts. Jerry Joly can do the map. They will meet with him on January 19.

8. Sponsorships: No discussion.

9. Other: None.

10. Next meeting: February 5, 2024

11. Adjourn:

Motion by: Tracy Weed

2nd by: Ashley Brown

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Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary