

# MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
5:00 p.m.**

**Committee members present:** Keith Siegel, Tracy Weed, Martha Johnston-Nash, Argy Nestor, Matt Blazek, Sherry Abaldo

**Others present:** John Loker and Ruth Ann Senff Wiemer (new applicants), Vicki Siegel

**1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Minutes from last meeting:**

Motion to approve minutes of December 15, 2022 by: Tracy Weed  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Matt Blazek  
6-0-1 abstention (Abaldo)

**3. Welcome new committee member Sherry Abaldo and Ruth Ann Senff Wiemer who has applied**

**4. Argy update:**

## **Timeline**

Each member should start a list of people interested in helping but not necessarily serving on a subcommittee or on this committee.

She has started making a list of all this committee has accomplished – a lot, headed in a positive direction.

Tonight's goal is top choices of what we want to commit to, then work backwards and create a budget. That budget will go to the select board. We will also turn to businesses in town on how they wish to participate and support, and also write some grants. The select board needs our budget at the beginning of March.

Will it be three days in July 2024, or activities culminating then but going on throughout the previous year including fundraisers somehow connected directly with the celebration?

Martha said it has to go to the budget committee. It has to be on the ballot. We won't know for sure until the vote in June.

## **Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – January 25, 2023**

John mentioned things in July or August not requiring funding already going on. We may have t-shirts, hats, posters available. Martha mentioned a small amount in town funds left from the bicentennial. Tracy said they had started a savings account earmarked for Sestercentennial use, around \$250. Argy will ask Jay.

### **Conversation with Kahns**

Patty Kahn put the gold book together when they were new to town. Richard was responsible for the raft race with others. Union's Bicentennial was the origin of Founders Day which continues. Argy had a fabulous meeting with them and the historical society. They are interested in helping any way they can.

Argy mentioned an artist residency at school that would connect with the community. She will see where the historical society stands. A parade was assumed; different sections of town could have a float.

Sherry mentioned flow, how the events roll – like a weekend in Union. Argy said work on that with Karin Larson.

### **5. Update from members who were doing research/work:**

#### **Martha – items collected from suggestion boxes**

A Parks & Rec suggestion was a softball tournament for kids as well as adults.

A \$1.59 donation was received in one of the boxes. There were eight around town: Bangor Savings Bank, Camden National Bank, Union Farm Equipment, the town office, Maritime Farms, the library, and Mic Mac Market.

Suggestions included: bring a Union float to Waldoboro's June 2023 Sestercentennial parade; barbershop quartet; free popcorn especially Fridays; elect king/queen, prince/princess; recreation or rafts up the St. George from Seven Tree to the Common (St. George watershed); St. George canoe race in April; art walks on the Common; and more.

John and Keith mentioned Union's focus with blueberries, agricultural history, possible tie-in with Fair.

Ruth Ann mentioned Brian Powers on Clarry Hill being very knowledgeable about the blueberry industry.

Matt suggested getting Wyman's to sponsor something. Martha said maybe as part of the pie social on the Friday night of Founders Day, and a blueberry pie contest? Brodis and other blueberry companies were mentioned.

## **Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – January 25, 2023**

Keith said the bottom line is we're not ready to finish prioritizing. Sherry and Ruth Ann can send him their top five choices, weighted.

Keith showed on a bar graph that currently the two most weighted choices are historical markers and revitalizing the map on the Common, both about leaving a legacy.

A goal is to maybe have a calendar done by fair time and get that schedule out for people.

### **Keith – facebook**

He put together a page, Union, Maine 250. Matt said Instagram would be great if/when there are a lot of pictures to put up.

### **Matt – grant possibilities**

He scoured approximately 150 available grants including those on the list. Some have very specific guidelines, some are matching. He marked some we're ready for. He noted a lot don't care what you're doing, they want a name associated with it.

Letters of support might come from the map library in Portland in an advisory role, and the historical society. For this year many deadlines are coming up around the end of March. Maine Humanities has a big one due January 31. Some are offered twice a year. We need to not stop looking. To start applying, we need to know what we're going to use them on.

Argy talked with Sherry Cobb (who's written grants, taught writing, more than happy to write the grants for us). Matt runs a nonprofit. Argy said Sherry Abaldo could contribute. Sherry Cobb would need details such as what the grant expectations are: who, what, how much; spelled out what are you going to spend money on, and who's going to be making the decisions.

Matt reviewed grants and confirmed this information is in the google doc.

Tracy said in 2021-2022, \$515.18 showed in the bicentennial report. Argy will check on sharing with the historical society.

Discussion included tailoring our needs to grant protocols, such as fireworks might possibly be purchased if part of a cultural celebration. Argy said they can be very broad in their definition of arts. Matt said Maine Humanities Council under their own guidelines are supposed to include history.

Martha asked about recording equipment for the stories. Argy said the state library lends it. Matt said it's not all that fancy; he has a plug-in mic he does a podcast from.

## Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – January 25, 2023

Matt reiterated a lot depends on who's reviewing the grant and if we have a name that sounds as if it could be interesting: "look at that cool thing, we helped make that happen" and their logo is on it. Argy thanked Matt.

The grant conversation will need to continue once we have a better idea of what we want to do and who we want to go after for grants.

**Other** – None.

### **6. Decide 3 days summer 2024, throughout year:**

Wait. Tracy will explore "save a date cards" so we can start putting those out.

### **7. Determine activities to include:** Above.

### **8. Other business:**

Argy said the next step is to figure out costs.

Discussion included the map (easy to get an idea of cost); ekphrastic poetry contest – invite poets to be inspired by Union or even by maps; school musical incorporating local history such as one by music teacher Scott Dyer with Millay connection, could be recorded; public art on the Common; connect school with townspeople; contra dance.

Martha mentioned selling apparel to create funds. Argy mentioned a design by kids as well as a design by adults.

### **9. Set next meeting date:** February 15, 2023

### **10. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Matt Blazek  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
7-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary