

# MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:00 p.m.**

**Committee members present:** John Loker, Matt Blazek, Martha Johnston-Nash, Keith Siegel, Tracy Beck, Tracy Weed, Argy Nestor, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer

**Missing:** Sherry Abaldo

**Others present:** Bruce Cobb and Jeff Nims (Union Historical Society), and others

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor
- 2. Minutes from last meeting:** Approved with one change.
- 3. Union Historical Society partnership:**

NOTE: Town Hall Streams recording began here.

Finances were discussed, specifically working with the historical society.

Argy said to get money from the town, we as a committee have to approve everything. Mike took a week off from work to build a float, a donation from the Weed family. If we could have gone out and bought lumber, that would have been her choice, but because of the process of getting money from the town, we can't do that. We can pay Alyssa for the design because that's what we voted to do.

She passed around save the date cards. They got prices from Staples but couldn't do it as they would not take a PO. There is also a tax-exempt number for the town. She asked if they could use the historical society tax-exempt number and pay with a personal credit card up front. Bruce said yes.

Re: Martha's concerns, if a letter went out to businesses from the Sestercentennial Committee, letting them know the layers, and we gave folks the option of donating to the town or to the historical society, and Keith has volunteered to track the \$10,000, and we're hearing that Bruce will track the money that goes to the historical society. Then it's kept separate, and we are communicating clearly with the town – so yes, there is a separate bucket of money, but people could donate wherever they want.

Bruce suggested a separate post office box. Matt suggested if it's for a specific event, pay it to the town, and if it's a general donation, pay it to the historical society.

## Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – June 19, 2023

Martha agreed. He did not see the need for gold, silver, etc. layers. Martha suggested asking for general donations to the historical society for now.

Tracy asked if the town could make a donation back to the historical society. Martha said you would have to carry that money over and ask the voters for the next fiscal year to disburse extra funds to the historical society. Discussion followed.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was discussed, including who are the representatives from each group. Keith and Tracy offered. Jeff went back to the last meeting, re: ways the historical society can help the committee. They are willing to do it as long as they have a good understanding of what projects like t-shirt sales are going to be done. In answer to Tracy, Argy said the committee sentiment will be presented to both the select board and the historical society.

Keith asked if the town attorney would have to write up the MOU. Jeff said they the historical society had always done it on their own, but a MOU would help to keep that separation between two pools of money. Martha suggested clearly separating the functions; it could just be a memorandum to the board. Argy added her experience with MOUs was simply spelling out the responsibilities of each group, for clarity purposes.

In answer to Tracy, Jeff said the historical society meets the second Monday of each month at 8:00 a.m. for not more than two hours.

Motion to collaborate with the historical society in the planning of the Sestercentennial celebration for next year, presenting this to the select board to approve the relationship, with sponsorship donations being split between town funds and historical society funds; and that we have two committee members dedicated to the historical society throughout this planning event by: Tracy Weed  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Loker

Discussion followed, including Matt suggesting an amendment re: liaisons having by a certain date a clear delineation of our town events that receive sponsorship, and what our general donations being handled by the historical society are.

Amendment to above motion, to add in the near future, after select board review, we will sit down as two committees and identify which events each will be responsible for by:  
Tracy Weed

7-0-1 abstention (Johnston-Nash)

#### **4. Updates from committee members:**

Re: parade, Ruth Ann has contacted two pipe bands. She has not heard back from any. The Shriners are on board for \$300 including mini racers.

## Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – June 19, 2023

The Down East Brass Quintet is on board.

The Clydesdale people never replied, but she read they would be \$2,000 including boarding and coming from MO. She mentioned Leonard's Mills Days with beautiful draft horses pulling a wagon, so she contacted them as an alternative. Argy suggested having reps from the original families or the governor in the wagon.

Tracy said the Freedom Riders were in the Waldoboro parade with two gorgeous horses. She will get contact info. A different group had oxen. They had a John Deere tractor behind the animals, with a select board member scooping the poop.

Ruth Ann talked to Tabatha re: Girl Scouts.

She is working on a single piper for the monument rededication. Argy's son Nicholas will see what he can do to bring Avens Ridgeway from MO in, and there are alternatives.

From the election day booth, a young woman named Chloe Keller will be our stilt walker. She also said she can teach local school kids to stilt walk so they might participate, if she had a place to teach. Argy/Tracy added her to kids and storytelling.

Other pipers were discussed including Maine Public Safety Pipe and Drum, Maine St. Andrews, etc.

Matt said he has not heard from his contact at the Transportation Museum.

Ruth Ann will speak to the Vose Library about what they want to do. The bookworm costume is long gone.

She hopes to have commitments and figures within a month. Ideas are welcome. Ruth Ann was hoping, with Tracy, their subcommittee could also work on floats for the different sections of Union (which Martha's name was also on re: reunion).

Martha said she hoped a separate nonprofit entity would handle the family reunion descendants. Argy suggested that she contact Mary who had mentioned them in the parade.

Matt ran into Don Grinnell and won't hear more on the Civil War event until July. He looked into a possible timeline event touching on every part of history during which there was someone here doing things. Members of the guard from MA would come up and be part of it concerning 1630s exploration mapping segment (discovering the area). He is working out a couple others. No word re: signage or map yet from the historical society. He is preparing a couple of designs to show. He thinks the map is out of our hands as that is their property.

## Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – June 19, 2023

Argy suggested, to go along with the signage, they posted a picture of the bandstand float. Both Buddy and Gary Sukeforth liked using “bandstand” not “gazebo.” How do we use this educational opportunity to communicate that? Maybe a small sign, or a possibly donated birdhouse sign – “Welcome to Union” and history of the bandstand.

Matt reiterated the Common is a historic place on the historic registry. Does everything on the Common come under the town or the historical society? Martha said town. Martha said the historical society produced the map on the Common to begin with. He will see if it was a donation to the town or to the historical society.

Argy reiterated whatever we decide to do in the Sestercentennial needs to go in report form to the select board, so they will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. For example, a bird house sign would have to happen that way.

John said “Mr. Pour Farm” is not doing the race this year, but will next year and willing to incorporate whatever we want to do. He will talk to Bill, noting getting organized for something as large as a triathlon would involve maybe your time and we have until next July. He said we could do a smaller local event but would have to look probably with a Maine regional organization. Ruth Ann mentioned mini triathlons as fundraisers, with Maine Sport as sponsor, which were money makers. Discussion followed. John mentioned lots of these people have scheduled their trips. Keith mentioned a 5 or 10 k family fun run/walk and thinks there’s room for both.

Martha asked if this is a Pour Farm event or a Sestercentennial event. John said usually the Black Fly 5k is a fundraiser for Vose Library. Argy suggested John talk with him and come back. John noted officially sanctioned triathlons are more effort. Argy brought up kids volunteering. Sponsorship was mentioned. Instead of being Black Fly, it could be rebranded as Sestercentennial.

Tracy said Bill and John would attend to share their lessons from Waldoboro. She mentioned a drive-in car show sponsored by Delano’s. The only thing the town committee did was pick up a trophy. Martha mentioned working these things into the schedule.

Keith talked to the Cabin Masters business director. He shared this with Jeff: they do not do historical renovations. But they loved the idea. They want us to tell them what we want to do. One of Argy’s ideas was a pop-up theater that could be used for years to come (which they loved). He has to go on their website, fill out an application, call her and she will pull it. She thinks this will make a good episode of the show. If approved, there is a lot of funding available to help pay for it. Keith mentioned product placement from Hammond, etc. He needs an idea of what are we asking for from them. Argy explained pop-up theater. She mentioned sharing the google doc and will connect him with Chloe Keller, who’s taught theater around the world.

Argy suggested bringing laptops to the next meeting re: google drive.

## Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – June 19, 2023

She said Sherry and she have been working on the interview information, and put together a list of interview possibilities not just looking at older people – stories from the past, present, and kids or younger people. They put together a list of questions. They marked the oldest people to do first. The process will be basically interviewing with phones, then find someone to edit them and use for podcasts. Matt said he has experience with podcasts. Argy will share that google doc as well.

She also said Buddy has resigned from the committee. We have Tracy and three other applicants. The select board is concerned about our numbers. Everybody on a subcommittee also has to put in an application; she is thinking about how to streamline that.

Holly, who will also not be participating, created a QR code. We put it on little hearts and a couple of big ones for the parade as well. Matt suggested a hashtag. Argy suggested #UnionMaineTellUsWhy. Matt preferred #UnionMaine250. The committee settled on #UnionME250.

### **5. Logo:**

Argy showed the committee the revised logo. Martha showed and discussed two fonts. Discussion ensued. Argy brought up an online store option. Martha mentioned a price of \$20 each (plus shipping if any).

### **6. Medallions:**

Tracy said Waldoboro has a 3” medallion with a velvet bag that they ordered, sponsored by Dow Furniture. She has all the information. They started selling them around Christmas for \$20. Raves for the company. Tracy brought up having the historical society go with this, and what images would go on Union’s medallion. The Bicentennial medallion had the Come Spring map on one side, and the bandstand as drawn by Hank Aho on the other side.

Keith said they’d talked about just updating the dates. Argy said we could use the new logo, which Keith thought would be great.

In answer to Matt, Tracy said Waldoboro ordered 300 medallions and probably would have gone with 200 to start. Matt brought up a company he had worked with; the biggest one they do is 2”. He said 250 2” medallions would be around \$1,000. Tracy did not think theirs was that high, and again Dow Furniture sponsored it.

Motion to pursue the idea of the commemorative coin, depending on finding out what prices are and exploring design options, by: Matt Blazek

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash

8-0

## Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – June 19, 2023

### 7. Wooden nickels:

Tracy said a local company is willing to sponsor and pay for the wooden nickel. After research, 2,500 nickels could be printed for under \$500, a double-sided print. One thought was a raffle basket, so one side could have our dates on it for next year, while the other side could have “hand in at the event” etc. There could be some big raffle event requiring them to hold onto this coin until next year’s event at least. Matt brought up losing them.

Tracy added we could hand them out at the Fourth of July parade, the Lobster Festival, etc. Argy noted it’s memorabilia. Keith said it brought back childhood memories.

The board reached a consensus. The wording will be worked on. In answer to Keith, Tracy said the logo might be too small to put on them. Argy suggested putting the bluebird/birdhouse on them.

### 8. Other:

Argy said another local business approached them about a clay ornament. She shared information on this and added it could also be perhaps a magnet. Matt clarified via Argy the company would be willing to make these to sell to raise money, not make money for themselves. He thought the logo motifs should be used. Argy said that was too intricate.

The board liked the concept with Matt saying “Union Maine 250” should be on it, more commemorative of the event.

Motion to pursue the above further by: Tracy Weed

Martha clarified via Argy the committee would be marketing this merchandise. Matt brought up branding and a unified message. Tracy brought up artist venues. Affordability was discussed.

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Tracy Beck  
6-2 (Blazek, Johnston-Nash)

Paint-your-own-ornament was mentioned as part of the kids’ activities, in conjunction with selling magnets, as well as making the pottery more specific to the Sestercentennial.

Tracy has not heard from Pat Hood.

Suggestions made at voting will be pursued. Matt said Abraham Knight mentioned the possibility of getting the last three surviving members of the Clarry Hill Band together for a reunion concert, and he knows other musicians. Matt suggested talking with Brian at Sterlingtown as they have a stage and beer garden. Martha asked when, as Friday night is

## Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – June 19, 2023

the chamber's concert, and Ray Montana may be able to pull together a jug band. Matt said Abraham will email ([union250@gmail.com](mailto:union250@gmail.com)).

Re: booklet, Tracy has an offer from Waldoboro to get their template. She said it will probably be in collaboration with the historical society.

Re: time capsule, Tracy said they have the first item to put in. Her dad received two birdhouse ornaments from Bob Heald, when he took over making birdhouses from Bob, and her mother said one could go in the time capsule. Steel Pro was mentioned as possibly making the new time capsule.

Re: kids' activities, Argy said there is a whole committee working on them, and one of those people will hopefully get paperwork approved and take the lead.

She read aloud a list including raft race, quilt show, softball tournament, trees, old car show at the fairgrounds, food trucks, beard contest, traditional crafts/art, animals on the Common (Elaine Frost). Tracy proposed having John and Billy at the July meeting.

Ruth Ann said she would do food trucks. Argy suggested she get in touch with Sherry Cobb. Martha reminded the Masons chicken barbecue will be on Saturday, and the possibility of food tables on the Common perhaps shifting food trucks to the fairgrounds. Matt suggested contacting Bill at the Pour Farm re: food trucks.

### 9. Adjourn:

Motion by: Tracy Weed  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Keith Siegel  
8-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary