

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Cindy Wright, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer, Keith Siegel, Martha Johnston-Nash (Select Board Rep), Ashley Brown, Argy Nestor, and Sonja Burns

Others present: Don Grinnell, Gary Sukeforth

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor
- 2. Approve June 17, 2024 minutes:** Next meeting.
- 3. Update on the following:** Please note Map and Road Signs attached at end.

Volunteer signups

Argy said volunteer signups are going well. More help is needed not selling merchandise but the other stuff. Part of it may be that it was not terribly clear, so we changed what it says in the system. Almost all the merchandise spots are filled. We definitely need those other people.

Action in the last week

Select board meeting – band, road closures

Argy said we met with the select board. The band (Enter the Haggis) is approved to be on the Common on Friday night from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. following the brass band that the Chamber is having in the bandstand.

Re: road closures, Argy distributed a map. The select board approved three roads to be closed starting Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. until Sunday afternoon at 4:30-ish: Burkett Road (where potties and storage for tables and chairs will be), Abbott Way, and the next little one over that is to the right of the bandstand if you were looking at Common Market. These roads will be closed overnight (Friday and Saturday). 235 is not closed.

In answer to Ruth Ann, Argy said yellow posts will be put along 235 to designate a walkway with volunteers for safety. Gary Sukeforth suggested getting one of those signs for the middle of the road – stop for pedestrians – but you'd have to go through the state.

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Ruth Ann said they don't have any signs. Argy said maybe one of the signs needs to say that and go on both sides. Cindy is working on signs.

Don Grinnell said Knox County EMA has a whole trailer load of various such signs and cones. Jay could put in a request and get some.

Argy said we have cones from Public Works, barricades, and something else. We will need something at each end of the closed roads. Probably cones won't be enough. Gary said the trailer has barricades. Argy suggested bringing it right to the Common.

Ruth Ann said we need cones for 20th Maine when they're firing.

Argy said per the map, nine places have to be closed off right on the Common. Town trucks will be involved.

New Union Farmers Market

Argy said she and Cindy were at the Farmers Market on Friday. They sold a bunch of stuff and gave out a bunch of stuff. She sent out a new schedule, which is also posted on Facebook and the town website. Tracy will update the one on the UHS website.

UHS Newsletter

Argy said the UHS Newsletter is chock full of everything Sestercentennial, seven pages long. It will go to every address in Union and Appleton. It will have the schedule, all the work Corporal Cobb is doing, etc. She and Tracy worked on it last week and gave the information to Frank who does the UHS newsletter. He just gave her a draft. It will go out in the next two days.

Pocket guide

Argy said the pocket guide is underway. Holly is working on it. It will have the schedule and a lot of information. Our goal is to get that out to as many people as possible. It's being sponsored by Green Meadow Farms whom she thanked. We are not sure when it will be completed, as there are many details with it, hopefully as soon as possible – maybe for the July 4 parade.

Wooden nickels

Argy said we have about 100 wooden nickels left. We want to get those out before the Sestercentennial. She was at Warren Days on Saturday, judging strawberry rhubarb pies (only two entries). She gave out 50 wooden nickels in Warren, and not one person knew that we were celebrating the Sestercentennial. Getting the information out will be critical at the July 4 parade. Martha noted the town office bowl was empty.

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In answer to Ruth Ann, Ashley said we have the band stand float. Argy said last year we gave out little cards. Ashley recalled her mom just running with those nickels, maybe at the Lobster Festival parade. Argy noted we are down to 100 wooden nickels from 2,500. She added the last of them are not on cards, which were just save the date cards.

Ashley brought up a Sestercentennial business card to hand out to people. Argy said last year the parade went so fast it was hard to give them out fast enough.

Parade route plans

Ruth Ann confirmed the parade route plans are all in place. They met on Sunday for lineup and decided where all the different groups will be, and how we're going to easily identify each group so they will know when we say, for example, "Number 20, come up to the staging area." They will meet again in two weeks. The lineup will be finalized then.

Ruth Ann said she talked with Paul Dudley today. He would like two sturdy men to help unload 20th Maine gear on Friday at 3-ish. She will be down there helping Brenda set up the sheepdog barricades at 5:00 p.m., so she can help but it would be good if we could get a couple guys.

Ruth Ann is also still trying to line up vets. She needs to return Greg Grotton's poster, which Argy said is at her house. They used it at the Farmers Market and were going to use it this Friday when Janice and she are set up on the Common, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Argy said six vets have signed up. She added there seems to be no one place that has a collection of vets' names for the parade. The new one on the list was Sybil's brother. Ruth Ann said she called him but did not hear back. Re: American Legion, she spoke with Jeff Sukeforth today who will see if he can put it out there.

Gary said the names are on the monument on the Common, but he doesn't know how current they are. Argy said Greg, who is working with Ruth Ann, mentioned the monument. Argy suggested getting those names and going to Janice Linscott for phone numbers. Sonja noted many veterans have a landline and may be in the phone directory.

Ruth Ann mentioned the big bottle collection cage which they want to try to get rid of. Argy said it's on her list. Ruth Ann mentioned seeing if they could grade the road behind the TCC.

Argy said she asked about making new banners and hanging them on the front of the TCC, and they said yes. Ruth Ann will set up a table there so it's more welcoming with plants, a tablecloth, a container of water, donut holes, etc.

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Common map

Argy said there was a bit of a delay. The folks doing the back of the map are in Texas, and their building was pretty much demolished by a storm. No one got hurt, but they are just up and running again. We may not have the permanent structure come the Sestercentennial, but we will have something to unveil.

Press release(s)

Keith said no periodical picked up the press release on Corporal Cobb, the first time this has happened. In answer to Argy, Cindy said press releases have been going out since April 15. Keith wondered about oversaturation. He said the Corporal Cobb one went out on Thursday, later in the week than usual (usually Tuesdays). He also said he heard from Christine Simmonds and is now sending press releases to Village Soup, not her.

Cindy noted press releases appearing in the physical tangible papers. Enter the Haggis is already working its way through the pipeline. Longer ones are guest columns. In answer to Argy, she said the time capsule press release is not yet in the pipeline but can go next week.

Don Grinnell said The Free Press comes out on Tuesday, and copy has to go to them on the Wednesday before it is published. Cindy noted they picked up the guest column.

Argy brought up radio. Mark Sprackland from the Common Market will put something in their flyer. They have a poster with a QR/schedule. He is still talking about radio or video and putting that out there. They have also contributed a large figure. We have gotten a lot of support from them, she noted, including the coffee. Mark told her there are two places in the store for it.

Road signs

Argy said the road signs are ready to go. Ruth Ann will put up four, Karen and Skip are putting up nine, and she put one at the end of her road today. Everybody got a listing. Cindy suggested four more – we have three – on the way to Belfast, which will be added to a list.

Cindy offered to do the last nine on there. Argy asked for somebody to take one of those because you've got to, as Martha suggested, circle back and make sure they're still standing, no one has stolen them, then take them down when it's over so we can return the borrowed wires.

Keith said they probably should be somewhere people have to stop. Argy thought all were at stopping places except hers. Ashley will put up 9 through 12. Argy reminded they all need contact info and date on the back. She put July 1, but the date can be changed.

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Martha took 14. Keith will do 13, 15, and 16. Cindy will do Belfast that's not on the list. Martha suggested one on 131 North between Appleton and Searsmont, in front of the Fraternity Village General Store Cindy suggested. Ashley said corner of 131 and the Ridge Road in the little triangle. Cindy said she will do Belmont/Belfast, 3 and 1. Ruth Ann will do 17 and 1 in Rockland. Argy noted someone said they are seeing fair signs but not Sestercentennial.

Cindy said she put a bunch of signs at Peaslee's Quick Stop – auction, beard, poster. Argy added we still have some posters. We also have banners – one at Bangor Savings, etc. Martha confirmed they will be low to the ground. Argy said we also have wooden triangles like a sandwich board that have been used for Founders Day, so we will just change the dates; one will go on the Common. There is also a skinny board.

Don said there are four programmable electric signs, two at the county level – one in Rockland, one in Thomaston. Nothing else is going on that weekend. If Jay asks, they will program them and get them out there.

Corporal Cobb

Don said things are really coming together with what they're going to do with the booth and the rededication. He will meet with Brian Swartz next Monday. They have found well over 160 (Civil War) veterans' names. Some they have only the names, others have enlistment records, where they're buried, etc. He asked where they should set up on the Common Saturday and Sunday.

Argy showed him on the map and pointed out a junction box re: power. He said they will have Wi-Fi access.

He confirmed they will be there both Saturday and Sunday. They will have their own tent, tables, and chairs. They will be able to provide information to the public.

He confirmed with Argy that the wreath is all set. Jenny Brooks is making it. Argy said there will be two wreaths, one at the Civil War monument and the other at the veterans' memorial. Consensus was do the veterans memorial one at the opening, and Corporal Cobb will do the Civil War one at the closing.

Don asked how they will be oriented during the ceremony – podium, etc. Argy said there's a natural hill in front of the monument. She pointed out on the map where they were thinking, with chairs for visitors on the facing side of the monument. He said they could probably come up with a podium or use the one here. Argy said when they get the chairs and tables on Thursday – they will have to ask permission – there may be a lighter smaller podium at the Methodist Church – Don mentioned a tabletop podium; they can bring their tabletop podium. He confirmed a 4' table would be perfect to put it on. The podium will add **CEREMONIAL GRAVITAS**, Cindy added. (For Keith:))

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In answer to Argy, Don said they would like a microphone if available. Ashley suggested checking with Tracy. Argy said we need one at the sheep and Common; we have the Chamber one and Tracy's.

Don said they have a 6' table with their banner on the front, where they can put the podium. His phone number is 207-542-3317.

Argy said they are absolutely thrilled. Keith said they have been a godsend for us.

Don said they will do a short history of the monument at the beginning. Brian Swartz will do his thing. They have a couple of other speakers and some live music. Argy added we have a student to play Taps. Ruth Ann will get in touch with him again.

Don said when Company B gets on the ground on Friday or Saturday morning, he will coordinate with them. Argy confirmed the agenda has not changed. Don confirmed Select Board Chair Adam is prepared to say a few words. Argy said we may give him a script. Don said he and one of their members in uniform will carry the wreath forward and place the wreath, symbolic of the Union veterans handing that (monument) off to the town.

Ruth Ann confirmed the plan is still for the 20th Maine to muster at the Old Town House and come down (to the Common). He added once Mr. Fuller is done, Company B will fire a volley – no need to worry about safety, they know what they're doing – then the playing of Taps.

The committee thanked Don. Consensus was it will be a great closing. Don left.

4. Future meetings:

Argy said the tabletop meeting will most likely be two hours, starting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10.

She added anyone doing anything on or near a road needs a reflector vest. The town has five that we can use from Public Works. Cindy said she has some ugly ones, two orange and reflective, one yellow and blue reflective. She will show them to Argy, who said if we don't have a dozen we may just have to buy them to make sure people are safe. Cindy said that would look consistent. Ruth Ann suggested a call on Facebook. Cindy and Argy brought up EMS, EMA.

July 1 – Laser focus on details.

July 8 – Walk through the script for the Sestercentennial weekend.

July 15 – Last meeting before the Sestercentennial

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5. Other:

T-shirt colors were discussed. Martha said there's neon blue, neon green, neon orange, neon pink, or sangria. Consensus was committee members will be in green, and volunteers will be in orange.

Number and sizes for volunteers are needed. Argy encouraged people to go online to volunteer in order to get this wrapped up. Martha echoed the sooner the better. She can do the committee's first and noted the ladies' sizes come in V-neck as well. She asked committee members to email her their sizes. She added there is also a deadline for t-shirts and hats, etc. that we're going to be selling on site that we never made a decision on. Argy said we'd hate to have a ton left, and people can order online. Martha will take a look, adding they will need a few weeks ahead. Argy noted we're at 27 days.

Martha said she will talk to them re: if we need to do volunteers at the last minute. Argy said we could order the number of volunteer slots we have in Large sizes. In answer to Martha about who is monitoring the volunteers, Argy said Holly, adding Tracy and she have access to it.

Argy said a handful of people have told her they won't sign up but will be there to volunteer as needed, so she will get their sizes. She asked committee members to let her know of any other such offers.

In answer to Martha, Argy said we have the money from the Chamber for the volunteer t-shirts. She added all the promised money is in but one. Ruth Ann said she has that check.

Ashley said she has a list of games for kids' activities. She handed out a list. Gary said he will check about a lobster trap. They would like a rounded wooden lobster trap with a top, but a new rectangular one would be fine Ashley said. Martha will call Mike Wadsworth. Gary will check with Rebekah.

Ashley said the games are old field day stuff on Saturday, and new age field day stuff on Sunday. They will have all the stuff there for it. They will have giant Jenga and giant Tic Tac Toe if kids are not into the cooperative set. She is all set with volunteers.

Argy confirmed the bounce houses will be at the fairgrounds on Sunday. Ashley will be down there. They start before kids' activities. Anna and she will be monitoring them, then set up for the regular games on Sunday. No decision yet on what we will be pinning tails on.

6. Adjourn: at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by: Keith Siegel

2nd by: Ashley Brown

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Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary



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ROAD SIGNS – after you put up your signs, please check them periodically. Once the Sestercentennial weekend is over retrieve the wires because we’ve borrowed them and need to return them. Thank you everyone!

LOCATIONS	RESPONSIBLE
1) Transfer Station	Ruth Ann
2) Welcome to Union/Washington	Ruth Ann
3) 17 and 220	Ruth Ann
4) Gibbs Library corner	Ruth Ann
5) 17 and 1 Rockland	Ruth Ann
6) Wottons Mill Rd/17/235 or at Rachael’s corner	Skip & Karen
7) 105 and 235 Hope center	Skip & Karen
8) 173/235 (Hope Rd) near Lincolnville general (now Owens gen store)	Skip & Karen
9) Alford Lake Rd/17	Skip & Karen
10) Western Rd/235	Ashley
11) 235/Manktown Rd	Ashley
12) 235/1 Waldoboro	Ashley
13) Moody’s traffic light	Ashley
14) 90/1 Warren	Keith
15) 1/131 Thomaston	Keith
16) 131/90 Warren	Keith
17) 1/131 Thomaston	Keith
18) 17/90 Rockport	Martha
18) TCC	Skip & Karen
19) Vose Library	Skip & Karen
20) Pat Cosgrove’s corner	Skip & Karen
21) Four Corner 235 /17	Skip & Karen
22) 3/1 Belfast	Cindy
23) 131/3 Belmont	Cindy

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24) Beote & N Union Rd	Argy
24) Kelsey's Middle Rd/131	Argy