

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Henry Umstead, Tracy Weed, Keith Siegel, Norma Hunt, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer, Martha Johnston-Nash (Select Board Rep), and Cindy Wright

Others present: Bob Oxton

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:06 p.m. by Keith Siegel
- 2. Approve May 6, 2024 minutes:**

Tracy had an amendment to the minutes – they purchased 200 coins, not 250.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Tracy Weed

7-0

Keith said Bill Packard resigned from the committee but will continue helping with the parade.

- 3. Help for the parades and for voting day:**

Keith said Sonja said she could help later in the day, and he can help in the morning on Tuesday, June 11. Cindy said she can help all day. They will be ramping up excitement and selling goodies. Ruth Ann and Norma will see what they can do.

Re: parades, Waldoboro Day is June 15 and the Thomaston 4th of July parade. Henry said he can probably help with Waldoboro Day, on the float or decorating it. Ruth Ann said she can help on the 4th. Keith will see what he can do. Tracy said both parades allow candy to be handed out, no throwing. She is thinking of float theme ideas as well as a promotional handout.

In answer to Martha, Keith said the beard contest is not just for Union residents. Cindy noted the only rule is that beards must be real. Dress up for promotion is fine.

Tracy said she emailed an auction update. Sharon Caron, Bruce Gamage, and his wife Becky are doing the majority of the work for the auction. Cindy said a press release on it is already written. Tracy mentioned a July 13 last minute prep meeting.

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Tracy also said Warren Day is June 22, the weekend before Waldoboro Day. She is not doing it as it's on her birthday, but if anyone else wants to do it they are welcome.

4. Budget:

Keith confirmed no budget update other than we basically have spent the \$10,000 with the exception of approximately \$300. The map is fully funded which is incredible. He noted the bandstand is looking so good.

5. Volunteer form and plans:

Martha said Holly Savage (thanks to Tracy) has volunteered to set up and operate the site. Tracy said she has set up the site and created a new email: sestervolunteer@gmail.com. SignUpGenius is the platform that she's using. Once launched, people will be able to sign up by day. The release waiver provided by the town office is linked so volunteers can print, sign, and bring it with them. Volunteers will be asked to park at the fairgrounds and ride the shuttle bus up unless there is a special need, in which case other arrangements will be made. The locations are broken out, fairgrounds or Common, as well as the different time slots. They stuck with a three-hour time slot, with the number of people. Tracy added that the platform keeps a tracking spreadsheet in the background, and we will be able to do communications based on the jobs, i.e., an email for the merchandise sellers. In answer to Keith, Martha and Tracy said committee members will monitor this but not use it to sign up unless they want to sign up for some other activity that they're not responsible for. It will launch soon.

Cindy said they have been promoting in every press release, Facebook post, etc. the unionmaine250 email. Tracy said the other email is just for the platform so Holly can manage it. In answer to Cindy, Tracy said keep unionmaine250 then once launched the link for the volunteer site will be sent to those people who have expressed an email interest. Tracy clarified it was a password access issue; the public will have a link when it gets ready to launch, but until then they can email unionmaine250@gmail.com.

6. Next meeting: June 3, 6:00 p.m.

Re: July 13, Tracy said she and Argy were thinking all the heavy lifting will be done so what else with a fine tooth comb is missing – for example, a princesses meet and greet on the Common. The idea would be to dedicate that meeting to making sure everything is in place.

7. Parade:

Bob said he is waiting to see where the parade is going. He is trying to get in touch with Greg Grotton re: military. Eric Meklin will have his tractor trailer unit here with the low bed. He asked about using chairs from the town or TCC. In answer to Martha, Ruth Ann said Greg is not going to drive them but said he would gather the vets together.

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Tracy said we're taking the tables and chairs to the Common for the weekend. Ruth Ann brought up TCC chairs and said for registration should they still be at the TCC they will need a table and a couple chairs. Martha said check with the town office.

Ruth Ann said the parade route is currently undecided. They will meet with Jay shortly. She checked out the fairgrounds with Mike Drickey and his wife. She felt for a 50-year event it should go by the Common. Parade routes were briefly discussed.

Ruth Ann said she talked to the Moxie car people. We might have a mini car for a small adult driver in the parade. They said it's a small engine and has to be repaired, so if they can't get it repaired it will be on a float.

8. Updates from Committee Members:

Re: stuffies, Ruth Ann said Argy put it out on Facebook. Five people signed up to make them. Tracy thought she had 10 total.

In answer to Bob, Ruth Ann said the vendors will be all around the bandstand area. He mentioned the space of grass in front of Camden National on the hill and confirmed there's nothing scheduled there. Bob said it would be perfect for Charlie Crockett/judges' stand. Ruth Ann said Charlie wants to meet with them anyway re: parade lineup, as soon as they get a parade route. Keith said they meet with Jay tomorrow morning. Tracy brought up who owns that little green almost across from the historical society; Martha thought it was town-owned, and Bob said he'll check with Camden National. Tracy suggested checking with Jay and Public Works.

Re: t-shirts, Martha said she has them. Keith said they are gorgeous. Martha said the online store will be set up soon with some options. Tracy said they will have to collect the sizes of shirts for platinum sponsors, which Martha said will be a separate order. Tracy has a spreadsheet started.

Cindy said the posters are here and showed the group a copy of the poster. It has the QR code. She brought 100 more beard posters and has a sheet of where she's put them. She suggested keeping track of where posters are put.

Martha said she emailed Keith a press release. It had a date typo which Keith said they will fix. Martha has a second one ready. Keith said they are sending them all around, but the only ones really posting are Pen Bay Pilot, Courier, Village Soup, and Bangor Daily News.

Tracy left the meeting.

Martha suggested to Keith sending a note with the press releases saying we are searching for a wider area. Cindy brought in other publications.

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Argy update via email:

Bandstand: Michael Colson will be finishing up the work on the bandstand this week. It is looking amazing and will certainly be a center piece of the Sestercentennial weekend, not to mention our common for the near future. Stephanie, who takes care of the planting on the common is poised to start working on the flower beds around the bandstand as soon as Michael is done his work.

Map: Andrew White and I provided a presentation to the Select Board at their last meeting. They reviewed the plans and gave us the green light to move forward (and move the map back). We have received enough donations to pay for this entire project! Andy is working closely with artist Shelly Colantonio who is beginning the painting of the map side this week. I am working with Frank Cassidy from the Union Historical Society on the language and images for the flip side of the map. Andy is also working with graphic artist Amy Files (Wilder by Design) on the plan for second side. Andy is working with Kurt Snyder (Stonescape Masonry) on the granite posts that will be installed to hold up the map. Please note: the map below text is not the final version.



Funding: My goal is to continue to acquire sponsors to carry our last 3 unsponsored events. All of the invoices but one have been submitted to the town to pay the expenses we have earmarked to come out of the \$10,000 that the taxpayers approved in the 2023-24 budget. \$5,000 has been included in the 2024-25 for the taxpayers to vote on in June.

Communications: Celebrating Union's 250 Years Facebook page as 578 followers and Instagram has 13. I expect 600 by June 1. We have 160 email addresses receiving monthly emails with Sestercentennial Updates. Our upcoming events will give us several opportunities to communicate. We have fewer than 100 coins left to give out.

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Trees: Tom Farley expected the trees in at the end of April to be planted the first week in May. The elm tree has arrived but the spruce has not. With any luck they will both be ready to plant in the next few days. DigSafe has been contacted by the town. The town will dig two holes, Farley Landscaping will set the trees. Both will be dedicated during the S weekend.

Union Elementary School: The contra dance last Friday night was delightful and fulfilled the goal of bringing people all ages together from our community. Chrissy Fowler did a great job calling and teaching. Scott Dyer who was the artist in residence for the Remember the Trees historical musical has secured donated trees that will be given out to the children to plant at their homes. The Moxie banner from the play will be carried by children in the parade. 120 wooden nickels have been saved for the children.

Union Fairgrounds: Ruth Ann, Tracy, Buddy and I have been working on the many details with the fairgrounds, to many to name here.

Other stuff: Shuttle bus is all set and will be running during the following times between the common and the fairgrounds: Friday-3:00-8:00, Saturday-7:00-9:00, Sunday-9:00-5:30. Thank you Sonja for working with Ben Luce. We're encouraging people to park at the fairgrounds and take the shuttle to the common. We're all but set with porta potties, trash/dumpster/pickup, chairs and tables storage.

Needed: If anyone has a bull horn, Ruth Ann needs one for the parade staging area. If not, I will put out a 'call' on Facebook for one. Also, if anyone has a golf cart please let us know. We need one or two for transporting people who might need assistance from behind the bank or from the Vose Library parking areas to the Common.

Cindy update via email:

Beard posters: I hung up all the ones I had (and made a spreadsheet of where I put them) and just picked up some more from Kathy to bring to the meeting. They are still bright green so if you don't see one where you think one should be, go ahead and put one up! The one I hung up at the Common Market blew away or something so I had to rehang it, and I never made it to the library so Argy put one up at Vose.

Sestercentennial posters should be ready for pickup tomorrow so I will bring them to the meeting. We can hang all of these and get more to sell at the merch table or hold back some to sell – let's decide at the meeting.

Press releases: I write a skeleton of a draft, then Argy and Keith make it awesome and add pictures and send it off every Tuesday. The S has made the papers several times and the buzz about the big weekend is increasing!

Yard signs: Two types – one with the S artwork and dates in July, for all over the roads and intersections in Knox, Waldo, and Lincoln counties. The other is to recognize the

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generous sponsors who have really stepped up and helped make so much of this celebration better than just possible. Both signs are my top priority this week.

Traditional Arts: I had a great conversation with Mary Sabins who has agreed not only to demonstrate the ancient art of felting, but also to bring supplies so that visitors to the S can learn how to make a little keepsake.

I still need to check with Irene Hawes about whether the UHS would like Anne Perschon to demonstrate chair caning on Friday.

Tracy update via email:

Coins: We have sold almost half of the first order. We've placed a second order and this one will be slightly different. The side with the Old Town House will have a grey enamel so that the letters and numbers pop out more.



Monuments: The monuments have had their first round of cleaning. They are looking much better. A few spots are left that need to have some extra TLC.

Book: The book is being worked on. We're nearing the end of pulling the content together. We're still looking for pictures over the last 50 years. Let me know if you have any that we can add. The deadline is May 26.

Walking tour: The tour will start at the Old Town House, walk down to the greens on the Common, and point out the various landmarks from the greens. As part of the ticketed tour participants will receive a copy of the Bridges book with a supplemental reference document.

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Bus tour: The bus tour has been scheduled. I'm not sure of the route or locations yet.

Auction:

- Sunday, July 21, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is the preview, auction starts at 1:00 p.m.
- Sharon has a key to the building and will start to move items into the building as soon as it's cleaned up from the fair.
- Sharon has tables, chairs, and a PA system.
- Donated items will pass through Sharon first (she'll reject items before they're dropped off).
- No limitations on size (yes they could take the display from the Old Town House if Jeff decides to donate it).
- Storage will be at Sharon's house and then Craig Fuller has donated his garage for the overflow when they run out of space at Sharon's.
- They'll handle all of the movement of items.
- Sharon has been doing some individual outreach to families that have items.
- Bruce made the comment that since this is a big celebration (250 years), we want to feature Union and the history over the last 250 years. Looking for items that relate to Union and the area.
- Items should be nice quality, old or new, no electronics, no tv's, no particle board.
- Items should be good and useful.
- They'll accept all forms of payment (cash, check, credit/debit card).
- Sharon is going to coordinate all volunteer help needed (we do not need to worry about any of that).

Budget: We have received sponsorship for almost all of our original events that we listed.

Bicentennial movie: We had a second showing at the Old Town House on May 8th. There were about 40 people there. Some had seen the video back in October and came to watch it again. Others had never been inside the Town House!

Time capsule: Nothing new to update there. I will start posting calls for donations to be added to the time capsule in the next week or so.

Parade:

- June 15 for Waldoboro parade – Need participants and help coming up with a theme and decorating.
- July 4 for Thomaston parade – Need participants and help coming up with a theme and decorating.
- July 20 for our parade – The float will be decorated for Union Historical Society. Joel and Mima will be on the float. We have Mima, need to come up with a Joel.

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9. Adjourn:

Motion by: Cindy Wright

2nd by: Norma Hunt

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Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary