

MINUTES

SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023 WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS 6:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Tracy Weed, Bill Packard, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer, Argy Nestor

Missing: Ashley Brown, Keith Siegel, Martha Johnston-Nash, Matt Blazek, John Loker, Tracy Beck

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor

Argy read aloud an update from Keith re: Cabin Masters: nothing new except that he contacted Jen Reese, business manager, on how to know application status. She said unless he gets a call from Chase, Brian, or the network producers, consider it not approved.

She also read aloud an update from Matt, who said he would do more legwork on the map and would like to meet with either Jody or John re: construction and proposed conservation ideas. She reminded that Matt did a conservation overview of the map as well as the bandstand.

She also read aloud Ashley's report. Ashley reached out to Lone Pine Realty and Sterling Transportation and will follow up within the week. Tracy added Ashley will also reach out to CedarWorks. Re: children's games, it would help to know allotted space/logistics.

Discussion turned to schedule and logistics. Bill brought a map of the Common and suggested highlighting tentative things with a placeholder. He reached out to Pat Harrison. He thought if we made three Common maps, one could serve for Friday, one for Saturday, and one for Sunday. For example, Friday night the center section/bandstand pretty much would be the chamber.

Ruth Ann said several restaurants will set up: Alsace, Common Market, and Common House of Pizza so far. She brought up a food court idea and would like to get tables so it's uniform. She added Dorman's is coming Friday night and Saturday and asked about a power source.

Bill said there is power at the bandstand and somewhere on the veterans' side. He got the original dimensions from Grant, scale 1" to 10', and suggested crafts over by the Common House of Pizza and laying it out.

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In answer to Argy, Bill said he would sort of go rogue and do things like the bus route, bus stop, and food locations but would be looking for direction as to where people want to be. The parking issue concerns him.

Argy encouraged all to see the bicentennial film. Re: parking, she said there were cars and people *everywhere* in the film which was wonderful to see. She liked the original idea of parking at the fairgrounds or the TCC, and having the shuttle go between those places may be enough. During the parade, Bill added.

Bill said he was concerned about the businesses. He mentioned the Methodist Church making \$5 to park all day or whatever, and Camden National Bank perhaps giving a service group permission to charge \$5 a day for their parking lot. He added let people park along Common Road as in the past.

Argy mentioned porta potties behind the bank. Back to the agenda.

2. **Approve minutes from October 2, 2023:** Tabled.
3. **Update on fundraising, delivery of sponsorship information:**

Argy visited 22 business. She said so far we have \$1,315 donated anonymously, \$250 from Matt Blazek's business for the walking tour, \$250 from Tracy's brother and sister-in-law's real estate mortgage company, \$250 from Shep's Imports, and \$400 from Payson's Maine Scene for the Sundaes on Sunday for a total of \$2,465 – off to a good start. Tracy noted they have barely touched the \$10,000 that the town voted on. Argy added thanks to Bill they used funds from last year's Founders Day to pay for the t-shirt design and banner, and some digitizing Tracy added.

Bill suggested a post or two updating people on the above. Tracy said she posted the sponsorship letter on Facebook, where the number of followers has gone up.

Argy brought up contacting individuals. There were a lot of people at the (bicentennial) film who were pumped up. Bill asked if it was in a format where you could do clips, re: Facebook videos.

Tracy said she talked to Jeff Nims who agreed to add a Sestercentennial page to their website. They will also create a historical society Facebook page.

Bill confirmed that, as in Waldoboro, any residual funds will go to the historical society – Tracy added except for the \$10,000 unless the select board gives it over to them. Bill suggested that be discussed. Argy said we could still put in a funding request for next year's town budget, which Tracy added would be available July 1, 2024. Argy said that's why it's critical we know everything that is going to happen.

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Bill said someone brought up to him a concern about asking for more money than the \$10,000 of tax money. Argy said again it is important to get the amounts out so people understand there are costs, and they are different than 50 years ago. Bill added that people looked at the warrant and saw \$10,000 for Founders Day, so it's important to share this is a milestone event rather than a typical Founders Day.

4. Update from committee members on individual responsibilities/activities:

Re: hats and t-shirts, no update from Martha and six hats left.

Re: run or family fun run, Bill brought up recognition for the runners such as ribbons. Argy said John had done more research but no update other than that he won't be here for awhile. Ruth Ann said if we're going to do a run, do it right. Bill suggested reaching out to John. Ruth Ann said they used to borrow things from Maine Sport. Argy read aloud an email from John, saying he would be stepping away from the committee until mid-January. Andy Pelletier and Parks and Rec were mentioned. Dollar amounts for the run were discussed.

Tracy left the meeting.

Bill, Argy, and Ruth Ann reviewed race options on a laptop. Bill said John was looking at \$2,000 to \$2,200 for registration fees, and if it's a family fun run Ruth Ann didn't think they had to go through any of that. She thought there would be greater participation with runners. Bill noted it could attract people not familiar with Union. They went over costs of t-shirts, etc. It is scheduled for Sunday morning.

Bill said someone would still have to organize a family fun run. If someone wants to sponsor it's \$1,000. He would like to nail it down. Ruth Ann differentiated between race and family fun run crowds. Bill asked what the \$1,000 was for. Argy brought up a Mother's Day fun run in Rockland and wondered if they might answer questions. A runner is wanted to head this up. Consensus was this is tentative for now. Ruth Ann will see if Andy is interested. Tidewater was mentioned as a sponsor.

Re: raft race, the idea is still afloat.

Re: war reenactments, Argy said Matt Blazek is working on it. The 20th Maine would cost \$500. He was reaching out to reps from all the wars in hopes they would all set up at the fairgrounds.

Re: Cabin Masters, above.

Re: time capsule, Argy said Sherry reached out to her uncle at Steel-Pro, and they were very interested. Sherry is circling back. Argy added there is clear information in the film. It looks like the concrete can be re-used. The capsule was sitting on a base, a little smaller than the base. Tracy's husband looked at it and said a sealant is holding it in place.

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They also put the capsule in a garbage bag. Dimensions were not given. Keith and Tracy have the lead on the time capsule.

Argy brought up what should go in the time capsule.

Bill went down the list and said kids' activities are taken care of. The bicentennial movie sponsorship is \$300. Matt's got the walking tour. The bus tour is \$200. The silent movie is \$450. Argy noted they are historical society tasks. Bill said the picnic is \$200 which Martha is taking care of. Sundaes on Sunday is taken. Argy thought John Shepard had shown interest in the piper (Avens). Storytelling is \$2,500, and video of the three days.

Argy gave a storytelling update. She has interviewed four people, Donna Morine today. She will interview Eva Burns next week. The filmmaker came with her when she interviewed Mildred O'Jala who is 102. He also came to the storytelling in the barn. Those interviews will continue. The filmmaker will then take those audio clips and incorporate any footage. It will go into the time capsule.

Argy said there is another storytelling session planned for November 29 with Janice Linscott, Sherwood Hilt, Petrea Allen, and hopefully Glenn Taylor in conversation. They are looking for two more people. Info needs to get to the library by November 1.

Argy said eight people attended genealogy with Nancy Pike. There was talk about continuing.

Argy added she visited Jan Cramer today. She will reach out to her granddaughter, a sophomore at Wheaton majoring in videography, about filming the three days.

Argy also said she visited the former Coastal Blueberry building. The new owners are Maine Farmland Trust. They have formed a new organization called the Midcoast Farmers Union. As they are next to the food pantry, they might do something such as a bean-hole supper. This was in the bicentennial film; they took three days to build the pit at the fairgrounds to do a traditional bean hole. Ruth Ann said Leonard's Mills had a bean-hole supper and an amazing Civil War reenactment by a man from Rockland. She will get his info to Matt.

Bill said one Founders Day they had a Civil War encampment on the Common. He mentioned David Martucci from Washington who was heavily involved.

Re: bandstand and map, Argy said she looked at both with Tracy and Jody Wentworth. They had the reports Matt did. Jody had done some work with John Mountainland on the bandstand. He confirmed the base, columns, and floor are solid. The latticework underneath needs some work. The boards under the shingles look in good shape except for maybe one or two. The shingles need to be replaced. The pole and ball at the top need work. Jody provided the name of someone in the industrial park in Rockland who could replace them.

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Looking at the map, the plexiglass needs to be replaced. The map has spots that are scraped off or deteriorated. It appeared frost got in and bent parts of the frame which perhaps caused moisture to impact the map. The posts need to be replaced as well. Argy said she talked about the map with Donna Morine who painted it. Argy also talked with another artist friend who recommended putting the existing map somewhere like the old town hall or historical society, and redoing the map completely.

Argy added the bandstand has parts that are not authentic but we want to honor the original aesthetics.

In answer to Bill, Argy said Matt had been trying to find out who has the final say on the map. Bill thought it should not go through another winter. He thought the map and the bandstand should come out of the \$10,000, as they belong to the town. Argy said the select board basically said run with it; she will go back and watch that meeting.

Bill said it would be nice to do the directional sign as well. Argy said that was in good condition. They talked about having a sign or plaque by the trough, often mistaken for a planter. Jay gave her the name of the company who did the bench plaques. The state gave her the name of a company that funds plaques for historic places or items. Argy also mentioned a plaque for the bandstand. Bill suggested somewhere stating it's the oldest Common in Maine.

Argy added Matt Elwell has a "welcome to Union" birdhouse, and they can ceremonially do that. She is still waiting to hear from Tom Farley about the trees. Bill said this might be an event that could be done earlier if necessary due to loon nesting.

Argy also said after the last select board meeting, Abe let her know there is an antique boat club in Maine with a local group. The president lives in Appleton. They are willing to do a boat parade and a display. They will take care of everything and can do it on Seven Tree Pond. Consensus was Sunday would be best.

Re: parade, Ruth Ann said they talked about solo piper Avens coming. Avens would be powerful at the closing ceremony. Ruth Ann has two oxen teams (Mike Fowles). Bill sent her a link about the Patriot Riders and will follow up with Mike on a local contact. John Shepard will contact the Maine Car Association for antique/vintage cars. Floats will be the focus, and she could use some help.

Tracy returned to the meeting.

Ruth Ann said she left a message for Brodis Blueberries. For the minutes, she said the route starts at the fairgrounds and ends at the TCC. Bill said the opposite was mentioned. Discussion followed.

Ruth Ann confirmed they would have power at the Common if needed.

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Re: food, she talked to Jada Beardsley who said there was a problem historically with the Mason's chicken barbecue being on the Common. She also discussed them doing hot dogs on Sunday at the fairgrounds; Jada will pass on the message. She will see about having the chicken barbecue at the fairgrounds.

5. Next meeting date: November 20.

No meeting on November 6 due to election setup. Keith will run the meeting on November 20.

6. Other: None.

7. Adjourn:

Motion by: Tracy Weed
2nd by: Ruth Ann Senff-Wierner
4-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary