

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Bill Packard, John Loker, Matt Blazek, Martha Johnston-Nash, Ashley Brown, Argy Nestor, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer, Tracy Weed, Keith Siegel

Missing: Tracy Beck

Others present: Don Grinnell, Steve

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor
2. **Approve minutes from September 4, 2023:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: John Loker
7-0

Approve minutes from September 18, 2023:

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: John Loker
9-0

3. **Update from Don Grinnell:**

In answer to Don, Argy said they had talked about the rededication ceremony happening during the opening on Friday. However, Matt said he reached out to a number of groups specifically the 20th Maine who would not be able to make it to a Friday, as they all work and this is their hobby. They may be able to make it to a Saturday and would want \$500 to be part of the rededication. Also, that may be their weekend for Ft. Knox. Matt added that, for all the groups he's reached out to, we will not know availability until January.

Don said he would get links to Matt. Matt said he reached out but has not yet heard back from the 3rd. He added that, beyond the Civil War, he has reached out to a number of different reenactors, and we are on all their agendas to see if they want to come. The Plymouth Guard out of Plymouth, MA said they'd love to come.

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Tracy asked if we need a separate reenactment for the rededication with Corporal Cobb in attendance. Don said they are not reenactors; it would be two separate groups. Matt added Colonel Cobb is a family heritage group, no costumes. Argy mentioned the historical piece of reenacting the muster coming down the hill with the community wishing them well on the Common. In her mind waiting until January would not stop anything. Matt suggested planning the rededication on the idea that someone would be there, with a contingency of skipping the march down the hill if no reenactors show up.

Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. was agreed on as a target date for the rededication.

Research on the monument names database was explained with a computer presentation. They are up to 170-180 names. There will be information cards at the historical society and the library. As long as they have internet and power, on Sunday they expect to be available onsite to share the database info with interested passersby. Matt brought up QR codes.

Steve said their group will obtain military headstones for any Civil War veterans' graves they find in Union. They have already located one. Matt will get in touch with them about connections he has in this vein. Argy confirmed they are in touch with Jeff Nims and did a presentation for the historical society. The committee thanked Don and Steve.

Don confirmed 3:00 p.m. Sunday (for the rededication). All they need is a 10' x 10' popup tent which they will provide, chairs, and a table for Saturday. They will assist people in finding their Civil War veterans and want to get people to join. They added that it helps if people know regiment numbers. Tracy brought up press releases on this to get the public engaged now. As Don said, "You will have the opportunity to search your Civil War veterans." Argy said there will be a conversation about press releases.

4. Business sponsorship letter

Tracy handed out copies of a final draft of the business sponsorship letter, which was discussed at the last meeting. Packets are ready. A volunteer helped. Matt clarified there is not going to be a *war* reenactment, more a timeline living history event. Tracy also handed out a list of businesses. There is a google sheet to keep track of who will approach which. Argy went over a pitch. Keith confirmed donations will be tax deductible, with that information coming later, Argy said through him from the historical society. Partial sponsorship was discussed, and to streamline, interested parties should find a partner and come with the full event cost. Pledges were seen as too complicated.

Committee members went over which businesses each will approach. Tracy brought up the possibility of in kind donations.

Martha: Common Market, Adventure Advertising, Hart's Clary Hill Farm, Tidewater.

Martha said to get rid of Union Pottery. Matt added Turtle Rock.

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Ashley: Sterling Transportation, Rachel.

Matt: Sweetgrass, Sterlingtown Public House. Argy added Corinna. Ruth Ann suggested he also inquire about Sweetgrass being a food vendor.

Keith: Union Hardware, Shanie's Gifts.

Argy said Buddy is going to Camden National about music, so no one else should approach them.

John: Bill Stinson.

Bill: Erica, Kathy's Salon.

Tracy: Union Farm Equipment.

Next steps are to approach these businesses by the next meeting, in two weeks. Some businesses will just be contacted by mail.

5. Next meeting date: October 16.

6. Other:

Argy said this Saturday is the Sestercentennial Storytelling in North Union at 3:00 p.m. in the barn with three storytellers, at Green Meadow Farm on North Union Road. All invited. The hope is other parts of Union may want to follow suit. There are also three storytellers in November at the Vose Library (Janice Linscott, Sherwood Hilt, Petrea Allen), and they are looking for two more. Argy has reached out to Glenn Taylor. Tracy suggested Esther Farmer.

Argy has interviewed three people: Janice Linscott, Faye Calderwood, and Mrs. O'Jala.

7. Adjourn:

Motion by: Ashley Brown

2nd by: Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer

9-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary