

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Bill Packard, Martha Johnston-Nash, Keith Siegel, Tracy Weed

Missing: Argy Nestor, John Loker, Matt Blazek, Ashley Brown, Bill Packard, Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer, Tracy Beck

Others present:

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Keith Siegel
- 2. Approve minutes from August 21, 2023:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Tracy Weed

4-0

- 3. Overview of Sestercentennial Events:**

Tracy said she and Argy went through the events and handed out letters to committee members. The goal is say “yes this looks good” and move on. Events thus far as follows:

FRIDAY

Tracy said the opening ceremony starts at 3:00 p.m. Someone from the select board or town fathers, etc. needs to be there to reaccept the Civil War monument. At 4:00 p.m. switch over to open the time capsule, which should take about an hour to complete (unveiling, lay everything out on a table, etc.).

Pending a dance band or similar, next would be kids’ activities that start at 5:00 p.m. to keep them entertained. The pie social is slated to start at 6:00 p.m. They were thinking of a band or dance band that could be the link between the opening ceremony and the pie social.

Martha said the Chamber meets Thursday morning and can discuss then. Consensus was keep 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. open for a band or other entertainment to fill the gap and keep people there on the Common.

Martha asked about a street dance Friday. Tracy said they did not put that in.

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Bill suggested approaching Sterlington and the Methodist church about its parking lot. They rope it off, and the committee would just promote it for Saturday night. Most of the traffic would be Pizza House.

Tracy continued: from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be food trucks or reaching out to Common restaurants, Four Corners, Mic Mac, Maritime Farms, Alsace to see if they want to have some type of food presentation for dinner, so people are not just eating pie.

At 5:00 p.m. will be kids' activities.

From 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be one of first showings of the bicentennial movie. Tracy thinks there is one reel of the raft race, one of the parade, and maybe burying of the time capsule. Quality unknown. They were sent to a company to be digitized. Richie Kahn gave the historical society a reel-to-reel. If good quality, there will be this Friday showing then a second showing on Saturday. Running time probably 30-45 minutes.

From 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. is the pie social.

Tracy said they need to follow through on the walking tour being self-guided or not.

She said Don Grinnell's group (Colonel Cobb/Civil War) will head to the fairgrounds once they do their dedication. Re: other reenactors, it looked like they'd be coming in on Friday according to Matt. One group emailed they couldn't come.

The cemetery tour is uncertain.

The Matthews Museum will be open Friday; awaiting times from Irene.

Tracy said there will be merchandise as well as raffle baskets and tickets on Friday, start to close.

She added the Union Historical Society education piece has not yet been presented to Jeff. They have the opportunity to have a table or display on the Common where masses of people are, anticipating probably the historical society building will be open as well.

The other piece is to get the old town house open and get as much foot traffic there as possible. Tracy noted the more people realize it's there – it's a resource, it can be rented out – it will help when they do their fundraising drives.

In answer to Martha, Tracy said the quilt show will be at the Common on Saturday. If it rains we'll have tents. Right now the only quilter is Sybil. Martha asked if they considered having it at the old town house. Tracy said it was considered but Argy and Sybil decided to move it to the fairgrounds where everyone else will be.

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Bill voiced a concern that some Colonel Cobb reenactors would be working on Friday. He brought up doing the rededication later or doing something different. Tracy said they will circle back with Don on that; they may be the smaller opening part of the ceremony then also be part of the closing ceremony.

SATURDAY

Tracy said the morning pancake breakfast will be sponsored/hosted by the Methodist Church. Buddy and Holly understood from their meetings with church leaders that the pancake breakfast was donation – pay what you can. Possible sponsorship was discussed. Buddy was going to look into Krusteaz, the mix they use that does some type of donation for nonprofit events. They are confirming but Holly was 99% sure this is locked in for Saturday morning.

Matthews Museum open hours need to be confirmed.

Kids' activities start on the Common, 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Ashley has been looking at old-fashioned games set up at stations that can be recycled or reused.

Parade kickoff is 11:00 a.m. The route will be starting on Depot Street, coming up Common Road, and heading down to the fairgrounds at the end. Bill thought there was talk of going to the TCC. It should take 1.5 hours for people to get where they need to be then the parade.

While the parade is setting up on the Common along with kids' games at 10:00 a.m. is the traditional arts. TMA was asked if they'd be interested in taking on an art show. Tracy said we have a blacksmith, Sherwood with wood carving, spinners, etc. Those types of demos could be set up throughout the Common. No one has stepped up to take that organization piece on. Argy has a good chunk already laid out, sort of self serve. Tracy reiterated we don't know who's going to run that yet.

At noon the historical society has a cemetery tour. It usually takes place in the fall, as the buses are not air conditioned. The question remains, self-guided or not? Tracy talked with Mary Thompson who said they may be able to put flags out, then handouts, if anyone wanted to do a self-guided tour through the various cemeteries. Martha suggested having somebody stationed at each of the cemeteries to provide info, which Tracy found labor intensive.

The Masonic lodge said they would do the barbecue. Time (probably noon to 2:00 p.m.) and location (lodge or Common) to be determined. Bill said we should share that we anticipate the parade going until 12:30 p.m.

Starting at 12:30 p.m. will be the reenactors Matt set up. He needs to clarify the name of event and if 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. works.

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Re: fairground food, Matt Elwell confirmed the Family Café will be open.

The bicentennial movie will be shown again depending on its condition. Running time should be about an hour.

The historical society has the bus tour – again, to be determined whether they want to keep it in the fall or move it up to a summer event.

Two people have agreed to coordinate and run the beard contest. Someone gave Argy a box of pictures including the flyer they used back in 1974 and more. If a person does not want to grow a beard they can pay \$1 for a permit to shave. Bill said he would forward to Kathy and Erica. Tracy said Erica wanted to have it midday when everybody is there.

Re: car show, no word back on that yet from Matt Elwell. Union Fair runs the car show now, not the high school. He was going to see if they'd want to move it to coincide with the Sestercentennial, either Saturday or Sunday.

At 4:00 p.m. on Saturday at the old town house will be the Union Community Voices film. Tracy said she and Argy are going around talking to the elders, collecting stories to memorialize the people that make up our town. Running time should be one hour, edited down, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Re: band/dance idea, Buddy offered to do some research and find a band within the price range and availability we'd be looking for. He also wanted to approach Camden National as a sponsor. Argy stopped at the old Coastal Blueberry factory which could potentially be a dance hall. This is still in the works.

A silent movie hosted by the historical society at the old town house is locked in, 7:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tracy noted there will need to be time between events, as the piano/narration gentleman needs to get set up, hence ending Union Community Voices at 5:00 p.m.

There will be raffle baskets, walking tour, and merchandise.

They have not yet been able to connect with Pat Hood of Parks and Rec about a softball game.

Martha asked about the 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. gap on the Common and about other vendors there. Tracy said they need to find out more about the space footprint needed for the kids' activities, and for the traditional arts, then they can fill in around that. Tracy said her vision is the more the merrier – busy Common, hustle and bustle.

Bill suggested nailing down the kids' area, maybe 10' x 10'. He could go over and lay that out and come up with 12 spaces or whatever left. He recommended a rough map.

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SUNDAY

Tracy said Argy spoke to someone who indicated that, in years past, on Founders Day the Methodist Church would do their service on the Common. They thought maybe Pastor Aiden would be interested in doing something like that, which would be earmarked 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The family fun run is the same time at the fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Ashley has reached out about a couple of bounce houses set up at the fairgrounds so families have other activities besides the fun run.

Matthews Museum will open around 10:00 a.m.

We have a placeholder at the moment for the car show.

The raft race is still an unknown.

There will be a second showing of Union Community Voices.

Kids' games/show starts at 1:00 p.m. Tracy noted a bit of a gap between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. They are thinking about more Common-type events.

She brought up Sundaes on Sunday, noting her friend is general manager for Hershey ice cream and they have an amazing setup with swimming pools, ice, etc. She thought this would get families there for the afternoon, then they'd be there for the closing ceremony which starts at 3:00 p.m.

The closing ceremony at 3:00 p.m. would include raffle basket drawings, burying of the time capsule, tree dedication if any, walking tour and cemetery tour (not sure if self-guided or happening) in addition to selling all of our goods.

Martha brought up a descendants' picnic probably at the Hawes Farm starting at noon. Keith noted it could work whenever wherever as it will be fairly limited.

Bill suggested having the bounce house longer than 10:30 a.m. and wondered if it might be part of the arrangement on the Common.

He added we need to lock the times in as much as we can and think about transportation, noting anything on the Common almost requires a bus as there is not much parking -- food for thought for discussion. He said it looked like a good layout.

Tracy brought up which day if we do the car show. It seems like the reenactors need a lot of space. Matt (Elwell) thought they'd be behind Jerry's trailer.

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In answer to Tracy, Martha said the end of the descendants' picnic would be 2:00 p.m.; she was thinking 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Keith confirmed the descendants would be at the closing ceremony. Tracy said there may be a question of how to validate descendants.

Re: Union Community Voices, Martha suggested doing two one-hour videos, an opportunity to have more people. Tracy said on the list to talk to is over 100 people. She went over the process. Bill said there will be plenty of opportunities to play it. Tracy added it will be contingent on getting funding. Waldoboro did something very similar that we didn't know about until after the fact.

Tracy thanked the committee.

4. Business sponsorship letter

Tracy said they are waiting to hear back from the historical society on some lines. There was discussion on approaching businesses re: something that they might not necessarily charge for, the walking tour for example. Discussion followed.

Thanking sponsors was mentioned (ad, article, or letter). Bill suggested a picture in front of a banner for sponsors with a business rep and a committee rep. Tracy brought up what Waldoboro did for their platinum sponsors: all the acknowledgments plus a poster done by the people who did their artwork. They also gave a framed poster to the select board. Bill mentioned giving them a banner picture probably digitally which they could make poster(s) of. Keith said photo editing is his hobby and he can make high-quality enlargements. Bill mentioned label-type inserts, which Keith will check on with Alyssa.

5. Next meeting date: None set.

6. Other: None.

7. Adjourn:

Motion by: Tracy Weed
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
4-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary