

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Ashley Brown, John Loker, Bill Packard, Martha Johnston-Nash, Tracy Weed, Argy Nestor, and Matt Blazek

Missing: Keith Siegel, Ruth Ann Senff Wiemer

Others present:

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor
- 2. Minutes from last meeting (August 21):** Tabled.
- 3. Updates from committee members:**

Re: committee members, Argy said Sherry has resigned due to travel but will continue taking minutes and helping out. Anna will work with Ashley on children's events but will not be a full committee member at this point. Argy wrote to a couple of people who expressed interest at voting but no word yet. The committee still needs people to serve.

She said there hasn't been any communication on the raft race. Buddy agreed to take the lead on music; they meet tomorrow. Bill, Tracy, and she meet tomorrow with Matt Elwell about happenings at the fair – an unknown right now, they might need someone to take the lead on that. Tracy mentioned a car show.

In answer to Martha, Tracy said the historical society is handling cemetery tours.

Argy said on September 8 Waldoboro is having two bands that had gotten rained out previously.

She reached out re: cornhole which is moving to Union.

Re: pickleball, a volunteer has stepped up. It will be the Saturday and Sunday before the Sestercentennial. Info to come.

Ashley said they semi-finalized kids' activity plans. Friday they start at 5:00 p.m.: face painting and balloon animals (volunteers needed for both), then a scavenger hunt tying in Union history about the Common having been used for housing animals, with Chris Van Dusen books as prizes for the first seven kids. This will tie into Saturday's event, which

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they are still waiting to hear if Chris Van Dusen will come to the Vose Library 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. leading into the parade. On Sunday they will have bounce houses at the fairgrounds at the start of the race, probably 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., followed by field day activities on the Common blending into the “Sundaes on Sunday” event. Bounce houses will be @ \$450 not including delivery; she awaits delivery and setup cost fee info. Chris Van Dusen will be \$300 to \$600. They are waiting to confirm field day activities with Stuart and Jane.

Matt mentioned making little stuffed animals on sticks and hiding them around like they’ve escaped. Older kids hide them, younger kids find them.

Timing of the family race and kids’ activities was briefly discussed. John mentioned a diaper derby on the Common. Matt mentioned historical society activities on the Common to coordinate with. Tracy said their events are incorporated in the schedule. She commented on the bounce houses starting at the same time as the race as a good thing for those not participating in the race.

Argy brought up someone doing kids’ circus arts activities and asked about timing. She has the contact info.

John has two companies willing to handle race timing: \$400 for Brewer Timing (manual, someone would have to do website registration, etc.). There is a service that handles that or you learn to use it – Run Sign Up or Race Sign Up. Or they can use Split Time Racing which for \$600 does the whole thing for you with manual timing. He does not know if it’s set up for different fee structures. Cost will probably be \$600 plus another \$200 for bibs so about half what he originally said. Brewer is the school one. Split Time handled Bill Stinson’s Pour Farm races. Argy noted this is an event needing a sponsor. John would prefer Split Time but will look into Sign Up. Martha confirmed t-shirts will be \$9 or \$10. John said the website facilitates that; the first 30 t-shirts are free, and the website will do that. He thinks after that a price could be put on. He brought up medallion cost and said usually every participant gets a swag bag. The question is what goes into the swag bag. Discussion followed. Argy said we probably would not attract hard core runners and had talked about not even timing. Registration fees have to be worked out. John was thinking 12 and under free. He said for \$3 to \$5 a piece he could get a medal with a ribbon on it. More discussion followed. Making it a charity event was brought up, for the Old Town House and/or bandstand.

Re: logistics, Bill said for porta potties, a regular one and a handicapped one each on the Common over the weekend, and one of each at the fairgrounds, budget price would be \$740. An eight yard dumpster for trash would be \$300. Ten portable radios would be \$670. The fairgrounds rents them from a company; we would just keep 10 of the 40 that they had. One 22-passenger bus from Sterling would be \$2,500. He can get prices for two school buses. Matt brought up state mandates for porta potties; how many people are we expecting? Argy said 4,000 to 100 – no idea. Matt will find out and said Buddy knows all these things. Argy will ask Matt (Elwell) about bathrooms at the fairgrounds.

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Bill said the buses need to be booked soon. He did Friday 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 20 hours, which can be changed. Tracy suggested he check Luce. Bill said they need to figure out where the bus is going to go. Discussion followed.

John said we need to start getting times and reservations now for food trucks for Sunday at the fairgrounds.

Re: reenactment, Matt said they are looking at @ 150 people spanning 17th century to World War II. Budget upper range will probably be \$15 for lunch for 150 people. He will go look at the fairgrounds and thinks the parking area to the side toward the exit will work – 150 people with vehicles and tents. It would be Saturday, probably 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.

Argy said Don had said they would muster at the town hall Friday, come down the hill, be on the Common then head to the fairgrounds so they may set up Friday night.

Martha brought up the car show on Sunday.

Matt liked a circle format such as on the midway area. Also, he sent a complete professional report on the condition of the map to the Union Historical Society to see how they want to proceed. Argy thought it comprehensive, well done, and thanked Matt.

Martha got prices from Adventure and will get them from Maine Printing. If we do banners, which she is not clear on except for sponsor banners which would probably be all alike -- \$5/SF. T-shirts in a batch of 100 would be @ \$9 a piece; that includes a large front and small back or vice versa. Signs like UHS did for event signs at locations would be \$18 a piece. Hats in batches of 50 would be \$10 a piece. As we get closer we can clarify what we want for banners or signs and how many. Argy said we will budget, and if we don't do banners we have to come up with some other idea to thank businesses. Martha concurred.

Re: founding descendants' picnic, Martha said it will be on Sunday. It will take a lot of preparation and encouraging people looking at their genealogy, coordinated with the historical society which has a lot of information. This is something we will be working on by the end of the year leading into next year: accumulating information, having a signup online, or a facebook page for people to go to. Argy suggested an email list and blog and reminded about Nancy Pike's October 11 event; Nancy is willing to do more. Argy mentioned maps/charts/family trees. Martha said she talked with Gail Hawes and they may be willing to hold this at their farm. She will get more info on charts with comments from Matt. Tracy mentioned the historical society and following up on the 18th.

Tracy brought a list for sponsorship letters: she added signs, hats, reenactments, piper. The other piece is verifying sponsor levels. She mentioned thank you ads in newspapers. The agenda for September 18 was discussed.

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Argy said we got our first donation of \$1,310 from anonymous, so the historical society has a separate account for us.

Re: trees, Tom Farley via phone said come up with a list on where they might go. He favors larger estate/indigenous trees, as small as you could tolerate for not only dollars but tree growth in the space. For Seven Tree Island he would favor White Oak; there is little soil. For the Common, Sugar Maple and Red Oak. Discussion followed, including island vs. Common. Re: island he said if we plant 50, 10 will live maybe the first year, \$7 to \$10 a plant. On the Common inch and a half would be the smallest probably and really don't take off that well. Argy said if we did Elm on the Common, and Sugar Maple, and replaced the ones cut down no more than five, the price he said by time you get them planted would be \$300 a tree; could be \$750 to \$1,000 depending on the species.

Argy said they would decide how many now that they have an approximate cost. Martha said they have to figure out the plan.

Re: raft race that was from casket factory across to Ayer Park ramp 50 years ago, Tom said he is interested in helping and was thanked for his time.

Matt would like to bring an Elm back to the Common – the original tree the Common was lined with – as a great community building message. Tracy asked about how much of this could come out of the town budget. Tabled.

Keith sent the following update via email:

“Argy and I met with Chloe Keller, who has graciously agreed to help guide us with our proposed ‘pop up theater’ project. Also, I met again with Jen Reese, business manager for the Cabin Masters, to discuss my concern that I didn't see a way for our project to fit into the online application that we are required to fill out as a first official step in the application process. Jen assured me that I can just use the spaces in the application to describe our project and she would make sure it got into the hands of the network producers and the Cabin Masters.

“Chloe has the application and is currently working to tell our story in a way that will be enticing for the network to want to move forward with it. The target date for submitting the application is no later than September 14.

“Our next step is to identify an approximate budget for the project, and sources of income to fund it. Chloe recommended that rather than try to figure out how much the project will cost, instead we should try to determine how much we can raise and use that as the budgeted amount, which will determine the scope of the project.

“I have reached out to Adam Fuller to get his thoughts on how to approach funding from some of the larger building supply stores (Hammond Lumber seems to be the main source of building supplies on most of the Cabin Masters shows).

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“This will be an exciting project if it comes to fruition, but it is still a long shot. If the network and Cabin Masters agree to the project, it will be done on their schedule, not ours, meaning it is possible that it wouldn’t be done by July 2024.”

4. Next meeting date: September 18, 2023

5. Other: None.

6. Adjourn:

Motion by: Ashley Brown

2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash

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Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary