

Ashburnham 250th Anniversary Committee Meeting, November 15, 2012
7:00 PM, Stewart Community Room, Stevens Memorial Library

(Unofficial meeting: not posted)

Present: Steve Coswell, Chair; Patty Johnson, Treasurer; Susan Brennan, Barbara Divito, Pat Frederick, Kate Mahoney, Karen Mattus, Lincoln Stiles. Guest, Dottie Munroe.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00. No Treasurer's or Secretary's reports were read.

New Business was addressed first, to permit local artist Dottie Munroe to share her proposal without having to wait through the rest of the committee meeting.

Proposal by Dottie Munroe: That the Town hold a "Paint the Town" art show like the one hosted recently by Westminster:

Entries *must be paintings* (oil, water color, acrylic, etc.) of scenes or objects in Ashburnham. (No photos or sculptures: those are other whole categories)

Costs would include promotion – advertising, postage, printing, etc.

Display panels and hangers can be borrowed from Gardner's art organization for \$75, which includes delivery, setup and takedown, and return.

Show should be scheduled to avoid conflicts with neighboring towns' art shows. October, 2015?

Responsibilities should be delegated, rather than having one person doing too much

Music by local student ensemble could be provided for show opening

No judging. Artists could sell their work, with 25% commission to the 250th Committee

Artist registration fee for show, \$10; student artists, free

The Committee's next Light Bill insert will be in May, 3013. Art show should be included in announcements, so artists have time to plan and make their paintings.

Dottie showed sample booklet from recent Gardner art show

Venue: New Scouting and Community Center? New elementary school? Other?

Barbara Divito will ask about Cultural Council Grant application.

Perhaps invite a local politician?

Old Business

Subcommittee Patty Johnson, Tyna Donelson and George Cornwall met last week to discuss the Time Capsule Opening ceremony. We should involve Cushing Academy, since 2015 will also be Cushing's 150th anniversary. Patty has copies of the related documents from Town Hall's files. We should plan to go with the *spirit* and *intent* of the original decree, since many of its recommendations (including a huge beauty pageant!) are impractical.

One of the two time capsules at Town Hall is intended to be opened before the other, since it concerns advance invitations to the opening ceremony.

(Perhaps a discreet pre-opening of the Time Capsule would be wise, before invitations, advertising and plans progress too far, just in case the contents have deteriorated drastically, as was the case with the Time Capsule buried on Cushing's property, which had rotted beyond salvage when it was excavated during construction of Cushing's new library.)

We should have a good-size whiteboard at our next meetings, to help us establish calendar dates. This should definitely be displayed at the January meeting with Town officials, town committee and board chairpersons. Pat Frederick has a 3'x5' whiteboard not presently in use

at the Piano Study Center, which she is willing to loan to the Committee. Steve will arrange to pick it up. (This whiteboard can also hold postings with magnets.)

We need to have postcards as well as letterhead stationery. The committee discussed designs for the postcard. Linc Stiles suggested using an Ashburnham photo on the front, with the 250th Anniversary logo at the top of the message half of the address side.

Steve showed a sample of the material to be used for the light pole banners. The committee members approved the material, but felt the 24"x36" sample was too small; 42" x 48" seems preferable.

Barbara recommended including Bob Fichtel on the Committee's December meeting agenda, to address art work for the banner, and the Schoolboy statuettes.

Linc suggested using the now-empty VMS Building as 250th Anniversary activities headquarters. This proposal seems impractical, in view of the cost of heating and maintaining the building, and of the Town's decision to drain the pipes and put the building off-limits, in storage mode.

Steve feels strongly that the Town should be using Fairbanks Hall for Anniversary events, including the art show and gala anniversary opening festivities, maybe a dance. The problem is, the space is occupied by the Council on Aging's Senior Center, which tends to have a great deal of property that would be hard to store elsewhere during other use of the space.

Linc proposed that the Committee should facilitate "Fun and Games" activities during each month of the anniversary year (some of which are already on the Committee's calendar):

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| January | Community Christmas tree bonfire |
| February | Winter carnival, run by Lions Club and/or Parks & Recreation |
| March | |
| April | Game Night |
| May | Maypole, May baskets |
| June | Downtown Day-related activity |
| July | Barn dance? |
| August | Blueberry Breakfast, Swim meet at Lake Club |
| September | Tie-in with Brian's Gift Road Race |
| October | Fire Prevention Parade, community Halloween party |
| November | Reunion |
| December | Santa Claus Parade |

Karen Mattus says the Rod and Gun Club wants to be involved in the Committee's activities, maybe the Christmas tree bonfire.

Next meeting will be Thursday, December 13th at 7:00, Stewart Community Room, Library
Meeting adjourned, 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia Frederick