

300th Celebration
Minutes September 14, 2016

The meeting came to order at 7:00 pm at Stevens Memorial Hall.

Present: Jean Methot, Chris Hadik, Jack Cannon, Ed Stuart, Judy Pepper

No action was taken on the Secretary's Minutes from the August meeting as we didn't have a quorum.

No vote was taken for a Chairman as no one has expressed interest yet in accepting the position. It will be brought up again at the next meeting.

Liaisons are needed to communicate with various groups around Town and bring them up to date on decisions made up to this point.

Jean Methot stated that he went to the Londonderry 300th meeting recently. Surrounding towns are all "competing" for the same resources for their town celebrations. We need to coordinate so that events are not overlapping or happening at the same time so that we can all get the groups for our events that are needed. Londonderry, Auburn, North Hampton, and Nottingham are all planning celebrations close to the same time.

Chris Hadik reviewed some of the things talked about at the August 8th meeting for the benefit of Jack and Ed who were not at the last meeting. Chester's 300th celebration will be kicked off with the yearly scarecrow event around the town for the month of October (2021). The town-wide celebration will run until September 2022.

We need to develop a calendar schedule of events for the year and get it out in advance of the kick-off in October 2021.

Jean Methot stated that we have a Director for the play about our town that will be produced. He has a script for the "pageant" and named the Director, Kathy Leclair, who expressed interest in running this event. Jean will share copies of the script at a later date.

Chris reminded us of the passport idea so participants could take their passports around to each event they attend and get it "stamped" to show participation and possibly win a "prize" of some sort at the end in 2022.

Jean mentioned there are approximately 40 different "committees" for the celebration but it can probably be narrowed down, condensed, to 32, combining some events.

As Chris stated, we will need a logo for our event and will open it to the town. Jack suggested we could offer a cash prize for the winning logo which will be used for numerous things such as banners, T-shirts, posters, buttons, etc. A winning logo should be chosen by this time next year.

Discussion followed about banners for the celebration and the best location, and safest, so it can be viewed by all who pass through town. Banners can be purchased inexpensively depending on where they are purchased. Ed said he might be able to get

a deal on banners for us. Funds are available for use to cover some of the "early expenses", such as banners and calendars, etc. We should look to companies, local and larger out of town, to advertise and contribute toward event expenses.

Ed suggested posting on Facebook and Chester Front Porch & other forms of social media to promote the celebration and perhaps get others involved in putting this together. The idea of having a parade has been discussed -- either on the streets, or in a large field area. Also, use of town fields and Wason Pond area could be used for events and re-enactments. Shuttle buses could be used if needed. Events could be planned so as not to overlap with the usual Chester Town Fair in September so as to help with traffic/people congestion. The idea of a costume ball has also been proposed either at Stevens Hall or the Multi-Purpose Room -- depending on number in attendance expected.

Also suggested was the idea of selling/planting American Chestnut trees around town -- the Board of Selectmen has said they would fund part of the cost and Jean mentioned that someone in town is also interested in funding for this project.

The idea of a historical recreation of the walk from Nottingham to Chester (instead of to Concord, MA) may not be a feasible plan mainly because of distance, just to Chester.

Jack Cannon would like to see the Boston Post Cane incorporated into the 300th celebration, highlighting the history about the cane and present and past Cane holders.

Chester Historical Society is hoping to have a virtual house tour of some of the town's historic homes -- this is more acceptable to the homeowners than having people actually touring their homes. It was also suggested that we find some of the relatives of long-standing families of Chester and have them present a little about their ancestors who settled here (i.e., Towle, Lane, Folsom, etc.).

Jack suggested having the Town Clerk do a display of some of the older town records which could be of interest to see who was around in certain years. Perhaps the Historical Society could help with this project.

The idea of a road race was suggested also. People involved with Wason Pounder have said they would be willing to help out with putting that together.

Commemorative beer for the 300th -- Ed Karjala's son, Ben, is hoping to start up his own micro-brewery and create something special for this celebration.

We need to have plenty of events to get kids interested in participating in this celebration and geo-caching was one of the events suggested, as well as maybe a bike decorating contest, treasure hunt.

It was suggested that we focus on one project at each meeting. Set a calendar and check dates with other town groups and the school so they don't overlap each other.

Jean mentioned there will be a Proclamation Day when the Governor will come and read the Proclamation of the town's incorporation. Jean said he has some of this written up.

NEXT MEETING -- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH -- 7:00 PM -- STEVENS HALL

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Pepper
Secretary