

**Chester 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee Meeting**  
**January 18, 2022**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**7:00 PM**

**Members present:**

Jean Methot, Chairman  
Chris Hadik, Vice Chairman  
Rhonda Lamphere, Treasurer  
Jeff Dinopoulos (remotely)  
Nancy Jolin (remotely)  
Sue Rieter  
Edward Stuart

**Guests present:**

Jay Bishop  
Stephen O. Landau, Liaison  
Chester PACT

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Chairman Methot called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

**2. Attendance/Chairman's Announcement**

**a. Approval of Minutes - December 14, 2021**

On line 93, **banners** should read **bunting**.

*Mr. Stuart moved to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2021, meeting as amended. Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Ms. Lamphere, who abstained. The motion passed 6-0-1.*

**3. Member Comments**

**a. Additions/Deletions**

The Committee discussed

**4. Old Business**

**a. Updates – Past Events**

**i. Tree Lighting**

Ms. Lamphere reported that the tree lighting went very well. The Lions Club did not put out a jar for donations as they received donations of refreshments. They did not want a donation from the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. The lights have been turned off and Ms. Lamphere will remove them soon. Mr. Hadik said the sound system needed to be improved, possibly add speakers. It is not advisable to have dogs at the event in the future.

The Committee discussed when the tree will be cut down and where the lights will be stored, once they are removed. The Board of Selectmen is willing to supply containers and a location to store them. This will be decided once the lights are removed.

**5. Updates**

**a. Budgets, Funding, & Accounts Payables**

Ms. Lamphere is still working on the finances. The current total is approximately \$92,000, although Accounts Payable need to be considered. She still needs to enter the budgets, which should be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Lamphere reported that Christmas in the Village brought in \$698.50. The raffle brought in \$173.

**i. Report on Sponsorships Current and what's left**

All sponsorship funds are not in yet, as they are still signing up sponsors. The \$500 level sponsorships need to be discussed.

**b. Souvenir Program Booklet**

**i. Proofing**

**ii. Deadline for going to print**

Ms. Rieter's goal to get the booklet to the printer is the first of February, so it can be distributed at the Winter Festival.

**iii. Missing Information**

Ms. Rieter reviewed the materials she needs to complete the booklet. Selectman Landau suggested contacting Ms. Janis Jalbert to obtain pictures and information that were included in the Town Report.

**iv. Anything else Sue might need**

The committee agreed that any information that has been requested and not received by next week will not be included in the booklet.

**v. Estimated distribution date**

The Winter Festival is February 26<sup>th</sup>, which is the current goal for distribution.

**c. Winter Festival and Bonfire at SHF**

Mr. Hadik reported that a meeting was held last week to discuss the Winter Festival. A location for the bonfire has been established. Activities will depend on the weather, including skating, hay wagon rides, and possibly sledding for smaller children. Refreshments will be available, including hot chocolate and cider. There will be a chili contest. The Boy Scouts have a firepit that could be borrowed for s'mores. Mr. Bishop suggested setting up a snowball bulls eye game using hula hoops. Selectman Landau priced renting a portable rink, but they are expensive.

Selectman Landau will ask the Boy Scouts for a donation for refreshments. He said the Board of Selectmen has a warrant article for \$5,000 for the 300<sup>th</sup> celebration for this year. If it is not needed, it can be tabled at the Town Meeting. The warrant article also creates an anniversary fund to take in \$1,000/year, so the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will have \$50,000 available.

**i. Donation?**

The committee discussed a donation toward refreshments. An ad will be placed in the Tri-Town Times about the event. A postcard will be sent to each household to advertise the event, which will cost approximately \$700.

*Ms. Lamphere moved to set the budget for the Winter Festival and bonfire at \$1,000, which will cover the mailing for the event as well as a cash donation for refreshments.*

*Mr. Hadik recommended amending the amount to \$1,250. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A vote was taken to donate \$1,250 for the Winter Festival and bonfire. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**d. Fireman's Muster**

Ms. Lamphere is working with Mr. Colin Costine on a letter for the surrounding towns regarding the Fireman's Muster, to share information and measure their interest. There will be a second mailing to the same group with an application in May. Mr. Costine will invite 18 towns, which includes the anniversary towns and those that have mustered with Chester in the past. They can only accept ten towns, as the events will not fit into one day if more towns participate. She will give an update at the next meeting.

**i. Donation Commitment**

Ms. Lamphere will continue to inquire if there is a need for a donation.

**e. Car show—Entertainment**

Mr. Stuart reported that he has sent emails to other balloon vendors, as the original one has not responded to his recent inquiries, so must not be interested.

Mr. Bishop suggested holding a cornhole competition in lieu of or along with balloon rides. There are local groups interested and it is a pedestrian-friendly event. It could be held on the ballfield and would be one of the biggest competitions in the area. The School Board has agreed to let the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee utilize the ballfield. There are still issues that need to be discussed, including police coverage and porta potty rental. Vendors have not been solicited, but will normally pay to participate. The music is provided as part of a sponsorship. The 300<sup>th</sup> committee should sell merchandise.

Ms. Jolin said Liz Casey, a Chester resident, has a shaved ice truck and would like to participate in any warm weather events.

**f. Other-Finale this and that**

Mr. Hadik reported the Town Fair Committee met last week. They had questions about the parking area. They asked if the 300th Committee would pay for the midway, but the 300th cannot pay for the music and the midway.

Ms. Rieter spoke with the Beer Guy, who still is interested in participating. He would like more space than the tent, especially due to COVID. The police want the area to be fenced. The event still needs final approval from the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Lamphere reminded the Committee that final decisions need to be made on these issues, as the date is drawing closer.

Ms. Lamphere will check with Town Administrator Doda to see if invitations to Proclamation Day have gone out to congressmen and other officials.

The Board of Selectmen needs information about the fireworks. This will be discussed in the non-public session.

Mr. Bishop suggested the 300th merchandise be sold at the Chester General Store, where residents might purchase it. License plates are sold at the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Jolin added a note on the website that they are available at this location.

Mr. Bishop noted the leadership of the Shriners changes annually. The grand potentate for this year is now in office and they have the parade on their calendar. They would like to put one of the license plates on their tractor trailer in the parade, and then display it in their museum afterwards.

Chairman Methot will give the gift shop a license plate to put on the truck in front of the shop. He will retrieve the merchandise from Bitter Sweet at the owner's request.

**i. It's time to lock in some Finale items**

**1. Music**

**2. BBQ vendor**

**3. Other**

**7. New Business**

**a. Parade Updates**

Ms. Lamphere reminded the Committee they can't think that the parade will cost whatever is left in the budget. They have sold over \$100,000 in sponsorships, promising the sponsors specific things which will need to be provided.

**8. Members Comments**

**9. General Public Comments**

**10. Executive Session**

**a. Non-Public -RSA 91-A:3,IIc**

*The Committee moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,IIc, Reputation. A roll call vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

The camera was turned off at 8:30 PM.  
The meeting room was re-opened at 9:18 PM.

*Mr. Stuart moved that the Committee come out of non-public session. Mr. Dinopoulos seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**10. Return to Regular Meeting**

*Mr. Hadik moved that the minutes for the non-public session be sealed indefinitely. Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed*

*unanimously.*

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**11. Next meetings –February 1 and 15**

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The Committee agreed to begin meeting twice a month. Chairman Methot reminded the Committee members to bring an inventory of the merchandise they have to the next meeting.

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**12. Adjourn**

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*Mr. Hadik moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rieter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary