

Chester 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee Meeting
February 1, 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:

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 – January 18, 2022

Mr. Hadik moved to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2022, meeting as written. Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed 7-0-0.

3. Old Business

a. Souvenir Program Booklet

i. Anything else Sue might need

Ms. Rieter is still having issues obtaining materials to include in the booklet. She needs a picture of the Board of Selectmen.

ii. Estimated distribution date

The Committee would like to have the program out before Winter Carnival on February 26th. They will order 2,200 copies and mail one to each household, and then have extras to give to dignitaries on Proclamation Day. They might include one in the time capsule. Non-residents could buy them at Proclamation Day for \$5. Ms. Rieter will obtain a price for printing 100 copies, if they run out.

b. Buntings

Ms. Lamphere has spoken with Ms. Lynn Rockwell and there is a group of volunteers willing to work on it. The buntings will be installed mid-April, then removed after Proclamation Day, and put back up again. They will also obtain quotes from companies willing to install and take down the buntings. The Town Maintenance Department will take care of installing the buntings on the Town buildings. The 300th Committee will buy the buntings for the Town and then donate them to the Town for future use. The Committee agreed Town residents should be directed to one main location for information about ordering buntings, rather than one person placing one large

order. Ms. Rockwell will serve as go-between between the bunting committee and the 300th Committee.

c. Proclamation

i. Invitations

Ms. Lamphere is working with Town Administrator Doda on invitations to state elected officials. A request will be included asking for a proclamation letter from each office. Ms. Lamphere will bring a list to the next meeting of other groups/individuals being invited. Other invitations – to local dignitaries and surrounding towns – shouldn't go out until March.

ii. Draft program (list of events) for Proclamation Day

Mr. Jack Cannon will be the emcee. The Committee needs to write his remarks.

The Committee discussed the order of events. The entire program should be less than an hour. There will be speeches, then placing the time capsule, then cannons firing and patriotic songs. Ms. Lamphere will bring a rough draft of the program to the next meeting.

iii. Other needs for Proclamation Day

1. Time Capsule

Mr. Dinopoulos said there is a two- to three-week lead time to order the time capsule. The size will be 30 inches wide x 25 inches long x 12 inches deep. The Committee discussed what items will go into it. Selectman Landau asked Mr. Dinopoulos for the cost, as the Board of Selectman will be paying for the capsule. Mr. Dinopoulos is also researching the granite marker.

2. School Board Annual Report

The Committee discussed the possibility of having something about the 300th celebration in the School Board annual report – possibly a picture of Chester Academy Chorus at the tree lighting ceremony.

3. Encampment

Mr. Hadik will contact Recreation Director Reishus to reserve the field. Chairman Methot met with Bob Davidson and his group is prepared for the encampment. There is a group that puts on Civil War encampments that would like to participate. Chairman Methot explained that the Concord Coach group cannot attend. Chairman Methot will be sharing an early history of Chester. The Committee discussed putting on the skit that was presented at the Gala.

Mr. Dinopoulos has reached out to a spinner and farriers, but has no commitments yet. Chairman Methot will reach out to Ms. Ann Podlipny regarding indigenous people's involvement in the encampment.

4. Food

Mr. Dinopoulos has contact information for a number of food trucks. He is ready to reach out to as many as is appropriate. Ms. Jolin suggested including the Lions Club, the American Legion, and Liz Casey, who sells shaved ice. Mr. Dinopoulos will continue to research this. He will find out how vendors are to be charged.

iv. Tent at Congregational Church for refreshments

Ms. Lamphere is working with Ms. Rockwell on the refreshments.

d. Winter Carnival and bonfire

Mr. Hadik shared the flyer created for the Winter Carnival. The event will run from 2:00 to 8:00 PM. The Committee will add this information to the mailer. The Winter Carnival Committee is meeting again on February 21st. They will meet with the TRC Monday, February 7th.

The Winter Carnival Committee requested that the 300th Committee provide five trash cans and two handicapped porta potties. The Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee will cover the cost of refreshments. The bonfire will be constructed from discarded Christmas trees and wood donated by Dick Lewis.

e. Finale items

i. Music

Mr. Stuart contacted the band and updated the date and time for their performance. They will play after the fireworks until the end of the event. The cost is \$1100. The Committee discussed asking other bands to play during the event as well. They are hopeful that Road Agent Oleson will provide a trailer to serve as a stage. Volunteers will be needed to erect tents.

ii. BBQ vendor

A BBQ vendor is still being researched.

iii. The Beer Guy

The Committee needs to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss having The Beer Guy involved. This will happen tentatively at the February 10th Board of Selectmen meeting.

iv. Balloon

Mr. Stuart reported that Andre has not been back in touch, so he has reached out to other balloon organizations. The Northeast ReMax balloon is available. He has contacted the pilot to find out the cost. This will be discussed again at the next meeting when the Event Planner is present.

v. Inclement weather plan

Plans need to be discussed in the case of inclement weather.

vi. Insurance – parking

Information is still needed regarding obtaining insurance to cover individuals providing parking on their property. Ms. Lamphere will continue to research this issue.

4. New Business

a. Merchandise inventory – please return by February 15th

The Committee reviewed the existing inventory. They will need to decide if they want to order any more merchandise.

5. Next meetings –February 15th – in the Rangeway

There will be two meetings in March, on the 8th and 22nd

6. Adjourn

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

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary