

Chester 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee Meeting
March 8, 2022
Approved Minutes
6:00 PM

Members present:

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

Guests present:

Meranda Scott
Jay Bishop
Chester PACT

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Methot called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

2. Attendance/Chairman's Announcement

3. Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2022

Ms. Lamphere moved to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2022, meeting as written. Mr. Hadik seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Member Comments

a. Additions/Deletions

5. Guests

a. Meranda Scott – Geocache / Coin

Ms. Scott reported there are 36 geocaches in Chester. She is creating historical write-ups for the significant geocaches. She will send Chairman Methot a copy, one to Ms. Jolin for the website, and one to Ms. Rieter for publicity.

This information will not be published until May 8th. She will create an "event" that geocachers will attend, and then it will be publicized on the 8th for anyone that did not attend the event. She is updating some of the existing geocaches for those who have visited them before, so they are "new."

As part of a geotour, once a specific ten sites are logged, a geocacher will receive a special badge through the website. She is working on how to deliver the coins to out-of-town geocachers. There will be 75 coins, limited to one per family.

Mr. Bishop said geocaching is a new badge for Boy Scouts. Ms. Scott will reach out to discuss the requirements with the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

Ms. Rieter reported that the price of the geocache coin has gone up. She is working with three vendors, but doesn't have enough information to select one yet. The coins are engraved with serialized numbers. Brass with antique gold finish are \$9.95 each, brass with gold finish are \$13.01 each, and \$8.67 for plated brass, all with plastic sleeves. The Committee discussed adding a list of sponsors with each coin.

Mr. Hadik moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,000 to order up to 75 geocache coins. Ms. Jolin seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Ann Polipny – Indigenous People

Chairman Methot spoke with Ms. Polipny. He asked that the individuals who will be presenting attend the March 22nd meeting. Mr. Hadik reiterated that if the information they're presenting is historic, it is appropriate. If it is political, that is not acceptable. From his experience, Mr. Bishop feels their information is educational and historical, although they are probably prepared for political discussions. The Committee agreed the group could participate in the parade as long as their participation is historic in nature.

6. General Business – New and Old

a. Commemorative Booklet update

Ms. Rieter presented the proof of the booklet. The printer says the printing is going slow due to the size of the booklet. He is delivering copies to the Post Office to be mailed this week.

Ms. Rieter had to upgrade her scanner software for the work she has done on the booklet and other marketing materials.

Ms. Lamphere moved to reimburse Ms. Rieter \$100 for a scanner software upgrade. Mr. Stuart seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Bonfire

Mr. Hadik reported that although the bonfire was slow to start, it burned well and was well received. They learned lessons for next year.

c. Banner brackets and caps

Mr. Hadik said there are 104 banners and 115 brackets. Chairman Methot will verify this count. Mr. Bishop will order 250 caps, the cost of which is included in the banner budget. Ms. Lamphere verified that there are enough banners for the sponsors.

d. Mug count

Ms. Lamphere reported there are 24 mugs. The Committee will revisit this issue after Proclamation Day to see how many have been sold and how many need to be ordered.

e. Proclamation

Mr. Dinopoulos reviewed some of the individuals who will be participating in the

encampment.

Laurel Jamison will participate. She works with wool and wears period-appropriate clothing. Her fee is \$60, which is a third of the recommended fee. Ms. Lamphere reminded the Committee that any individuals the Town pays will need to submit a W-4.

The American Independence Museum in Exeter is closed until the first of May, but Mr. Dinopoulos has been in contact with a representative. He will continue to discuss their participation with her.

He has been researching other artisans, including farriers, and will continue to follow up. He has contacted the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Chairman Methot will also reach out to them. Mr. Bishop suggested potential participants. He has created a draft email to the school asking the students to write letters for the time capsule and will send that this week.

The Committee agreed it was not necessary for the Civil War and the Revolutionary War reenactors to attend a meeting to discuss their participation. They will not be firing their cannons, if the Town is shooting their cannons.

f. Proclamation Program

Ms. Rieter agreed to lay out the program. She needs all information by April 5th, so the printer has enough time to do the printing.

Mr. Bishop confirmed with the singer the songs she will be singing. He also spoke with Mr. John Dalrymple, who has experience with parades and bands, who is willing to help.

Mr. Hadik submitted paperwork to request the use of Stevens Hall and both ballfields from 7 AM until 5 PM on May 7th. He needs to know ASAP if the fields are needed on May 6th. Chairman Methot will contact the reenactors to see if they need to set up on May 6th. Mr. Hadik will attend the TRC meeting at 9 AM on April 4th.

g. Invitations

i. Update on VIP invitations

The Committee discussed the Governor's proclamation and whether he will attend. Town Administrator Debra Doda is handling the VIP invitations. Mr. Dinopoulos will follow up with her regarding their attendance.

ii. List of local others to invite – update from last meeting

The Committee reviewed a list that Mr. Dinopoulos is working on of other dignitaries to invite.

h. Other equipment needed for event

i. PA system

Chairman Methot would like to rent a system. He was not pleased with the quality of the one that was used at the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. At least four speakers will be needed.

ii. Stage/risers – update

Mr. Bishop followed up with the Town of Manchester regarding renting the stage for Proclamation Day and the parade. It is available. The rental fee is \$150 plus the cost of setup.

The museum will be open on the Proclamation Day. So, the stage will need to be placed to allow access to the museum.

iii. Podium

The Town has a podium with the Town Seal, although the seal is crooked. Ms. Lamphere will ask Maintenance Director Paul Kavanaugh if there is another seal.

iv. Chairs for guests – reserved and open seating

The MPR has 225 white chairs. The chairs have to be zip-tied together per the Fire Department chief for safety reasons, even though the event is outside.

v. Portable toilets

1. 1 handicapped at Stevens Hall

2. 1 handicapped at church (refreshment area)

3. Ball fields/encampment area?

Mr. Hadik does not know if baseball will have portable toilets installed by that time, so the Committee will order them.

i. Cannons

i. Firing at proclamation

The Committee discussed and agreed on each cannon being fired one time.

ii. Cost

The Committee will pay for the cost of supplies required for the firing.

iii. PD detail; permission from BOS

The Committee must get permission from the Board of Selectmen and arrange for a police detail; this can wait until the TRC meeting.

j. Firing of cannons on Memorial Day – Lions Club request

Chairman Methot said this will not be possible due to the logistics of manufacturing plugs.

k. Decorations/flowers

Ms. Lamphere is working with a local florist on a sponsorship, so this should be handled.

l. Time Capsule

Mr. Dinopoulos reported that a stainless-steel capsule has been ordered at the cost of \$1,079. The Town will reimburse him for the expenditure. The Board of Selectmen has offered to pay for the capsule.

i. Items for capsule

The Committee needs to get items to Mr. Dinopoulos. He will contact the library to see if they have any items. He is working with the School as well.

m. Top Marker

i. Inscription

The Committee reviewed the wording of the inscription and the cost of the marker. Mr. Dinopoulos will find out when it needs to be ordered and a Committee member will pick it up.

n. Food vendors at Encampment area

i. How many and who

The Committee discussed the number and type of vendors to be invited to participate in the event. Mr. Dinopoulos will follow up. The church will provide light refreshments.

7. Other Business – Next meetings – March 22nd and April 5th

8. Executive Session

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

Chairman Methot moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,IIc, Reputation. Mr. Stuart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The camera was turned off at 8:16 PM.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:21 PM.

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

9. Return to Regular Meeting

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

10. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary