

Chester 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee Meeting
(held remotely)
March 23, 2021
Approved Minutes
7:00 PM

Members present:

Jean Methot, Chairman
Jack Cannon, Vice-Chairman
Rhonda Lamphere, Treasurer
Edward Stuart
Sue Rieter
Nancy Jolin
Chris Hadik

Guests present:

Jay Bishop
Sharon and Jeff Dinopoulos
Selectman Stephen Landau

Members of the public present:

Joe Biedrzycki
PACT

1. Meeting Called to Order 7:03

Chairman Methot called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Attendance/Chairman's Announcement

3. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2021

Mr. Hadik noted that on line 216, **Methot** was misspelled. On line 278, the Fireman's Muster **may not** be allowed. The contact is Colin Costine, not the fire chief. On line 294, Miranda is working on **geocaching**.

Ms. Lamphere corrected the spelling of Mr. Massahos' name. On line 155, delete the comment about events being walking distance from each other; this was a miscommunication. On line 265, change # to \$.

Ms. Rieter said on line 284, the members will add contact information for **sponsors**, not members.

Ms. Jolin said on line 296, the geocaching will run from April to September **2022**, not 22nd.

Ms. Lamphere moved to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting as amended. Ms. Rieter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Member General Comments/Public Comments

Chairman Methot said that Tony Massahos and Bernadette Caldwell might join the meeting this evening.

5. Guests

a. Bernadette Caldwell-Town Decorations

Chairman Methot said Ms. Caldwell is on a ship and will join the meeting if she can.

Chairman Methot asked the committee for comments regarding Ms. Caldwell's decoration ideas. Ms. Caldwell will Photoshop the bunting onto buildings so the committee can see her ideas. The committee appreciate that she is willing to take on this project. Townspeople, especially those living on Chester Street, can decorate their homes; the committee should be able to get a bulk discount on decorations. The decorations will be nylon or polyester, since the committee is buying them to be used again.

6. Old Business

a. Proclamation Event – Update

i. Jean/Jack—Liaisons

ii. Next Steps

1. Invitation List-Discussion

Suggestions for invitees include members of committees from other celebratory towns, the Boston post cane holder. The committee needs to decide which elected officials to invite. They need to be invited soon as their schedules fill quickly.

There will need to be a stage, a lectern, and covered seating for the invited guests. There is no rain date. Suggestions for a stage included renting a flatbed truck with an easy-up cover, using the stage the Selectmen used for the town meeting. The City of Manchester has a tent that might be appropriate. Mr. Bishop said as he does sponsorship presentations, he will discuss the availability of something that would work with construction companies. Research needs to be done on these options.

The invited guests and key sponsors will be served refreshments. They could be served at Stevens Hall, or in the vestry of the church. Chairman Methot will talk to the church. Perhaps the congregation could provide the refreshments (lemonade, coffee, cookies, snacks). The Boy Scouts could do the Pledge of Allegiance; Selectman Landau will follow up.

The committee needs to decide who will speak at the event. Chairman Methot said there usually is a proclamation from the senate and representatives.

2. Letter to the Governor

Town Administrator Doda drafted an invitation letter to the governor. The committee decided it will be signed by Chairman Methot and Board of Selectmen Chairman Owens. It should be on town letterhead and have the 300th celebration logo so the governor understands the importance of the event to the town. The letter needs to be

100 sent as soon as possible, since the governor's 2022 schedule is probably already fill-
102 ing up. It will instruct the governor's office to respond to Town Administrator Doda,
since she is easily reachable. It will offer to fine-tune the time if necessary to fit into
the governor's schedule.

104 Mr. Lamphere will work with Ms. Doda to complete the letter and send it to the com-
106 mittee members to be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Confirm Re-Enactment volunteers and location—Jean

108 Chairman Methot said the re-enactors will arrive Friday night, stay overnight, attend
110 the proclamation event, then return to the encampment and depart around 3 p.m. He
will ask them to stay until 5 p.m. so there is enough time for people can walk around
112 and observe. The encampment might be behind the town offices so people can attend
after the proclamation. Ms. Lamphere suggested asking the re-enactors to stay longer
114 in case the governor can't be there at 10 a.m.. Chairman Methot will discuss this with
the re-enactors if that happens.

116 Mr. Bishop said the best potential to receive a grant is if the re-enactors are demon-
118 strating artistic skills such as weaving, basketmaking, and horseshoeing, and are pre-
approved by the New Hampshire Council on Arts. He recommended connecting with
120 the grant writer, Erin Newnan. Ms. Lamphere will speak with Ms. Newnan before the
next meeting about grant opportunities.

122 Food vendors could be invited to set up at the reenactment.

124 Chairman Methot will work on the speaker list tonight.

4. Time Capsule—Chris. Volunteer—Jeff and Sharon Dinopoulos

128 Mr. Dinopoulos is researching time capsules and will report to the committee at the
130 next meeting. The committee needs to decide what is going to be placed inside the
capsule to know what size is needed. They discussed using a pipe with a cap either
132 glued or screwed on, and debated which would be more waterproof. Ms. Lamphere
offered to provide a piece of pipe to serve as the capsule, but it would need to be cut
134 down and painted. A cap could be glued onto it onsite.

136 The committee will discuss at another meeting whether the capsule will be filled on-
site during the celebration or if the contents will be a surprise when it is opened in the
138 future. Mr. Bishop said it could be buried ceremoniously, then done more perma-
nently at a later date.

140 Selectman Landau has contacted the person who rebuilt the cannons, and he has been
142 invited to fire them at the event. He will also train someone to do it.

- 144 a. Items to include
- 146 i. Gathering of that information

Mr. and Mrs. Dinopoulos are working on a list of items to include. They are willing to receive emailed suggestions if Ms. Jolin adds a request for ideas to the website and Facebook. They will have a site at the dump to collect items, as well.

Mr. Bishop said some towns honor residents at the ceremony by allowing them to place items in the capsule. Vice-Chairman Cannon suggested the holder of the Boston Post cane holder should be asked to deposit something in the capsule. The committee suggested the oldest and youngest Chester residents and school students could contribute items. Perhaps a letter from the Busche Academy written in Cantonese or Chinese. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

b. Sponsorship Packets and First Appointments-Sue/Rhonda

Ms. Rieter and Ms. Lamphere are ready to assemble the packets for the first appointments. MLM Construction, Tri-Town, Comcast, Block 5 Technologies, Eversource Energy, GSI, Busby Construction and Petra Paving were suggested. Ms. Dinopoulos will send the Comcast representative's contact information to the committee. It is advisable to approach the larger sponsors first, as having their names attached to the event will be an incentive for others to sign on. Vice-Chairman Cannon will make time to help with the presentations. Mr. Bishop said he will be vaccinated on April 10th, so is willing to do in-person appointments any time after May 1st.

c. Commemorative Booklet vs Handout at Town Fair 2021

Ms. Rieter said the committee needs to finalize the content, decide what will be on the cover, the number of colored pages, etc. The committee discussed using the brochure design for the covers, or a collage of pictures of the town buildings. Suggested contents include a copy of the proclamation, the pictures of the old houses that Chairman Methot is working on. He has the pictures, but they are not high definition. Ms. Lamphere is looking for a photographer to cover the events, and they could take the house pictures as well. Selectman Landau will give Chairman Methot a camera suitable for taking the pictures. The schedule of events will be the centerfold, with writeups on each event to generate excitement. If students are going to form the numbers 300 and have a picture taken, it needs to be done while they are in school. Ms. Lamphere will contact the school.

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. New Business

a. Town Report Back Cover Ad—Rhonda/Sue

Ms. Rieter has created a draft of the ad for the Town Report back cover. The committee suggested changes, and she will bring a new version to the next meeting. Mr. Bishop said they should start to brand the logo so it will be connected to the celebration. There is clip art in the design, which will cost \$15 to purchase.

Ms. Lamphere asked if the committee is interested in purchasing a ceremony kit for \$49. It will save the members time, so is worth the cost.

Mr. Hadik moved to spend \$49 on the ceremony kit and \$15 on clip art for the ad. Ms. Jolin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

**b. Speaker for Town Meeting—
i. Discussion**

As the committee is asking for \$5,000 in a warrant article, someone from the committee needs to speak at the Town Meeting about the celebration. Vice-Chairman Cannon is willing to do it if his schedule permits. If not, Mr. Hadik will speak.

Souvenirs can be sold and information handed out at the Town Meeting in the places that people register to vote. Many people have asked about the celebration, and wanted to know if they can help, so this would be a good time and place to share that information.

**c. Need to Begin to Bring Other Town Groups into the Celebration Plans
i. BOS
ii. School Board
iii. Recreation
iv. Other**

The committee needs to decide when to start approaching other boards with information about the celebration. At this point, plans are still being made. As soon as everything is organized, they will approach the School Board and the Board of Selectmen. This should happen soon, perhaps in June, after the Town Meeting. Selectman Landau said his presence at this meeting is to pass information to the Board of Selectmen, and the committee told him they appreciated his contribution.

**d. Reviews/Updates:
i. Number plates—Chris**

The Department of Motor Vehicles needs a letter from the Board of Selectmen stating that they are aware of the regulations regarding displaying commemorative plates. Mr. Hadik contacted Ms. Jalbert, requesting an official letter on town letterhead. Mr. Bishop will send the committee a copy of the letter written by Brookline, and Mr. Hadik will forward it to Ms. Jalbert.

8. Meeting Review/Assignments

9. Next Meeting, April 13, 2021

a. Topics—What to discuss next; what to further review

10. Executive Session

a. Non-Public-RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Reputation

b. Non-Public-RSA 91-A:3 II (c)– Reputation

c. Non-Public-RSA 91-A:3 II (c)– Reputation

Mr. Bishop was invited to participate as a guest.

Ms. Lamphere moved that the committee go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Methot – aye, Lamphere – aye, Cannon – aye, Hadik – aye, Rieter – aye, Stuart – aye, Jolin – aye. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 8:44 p.m.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:26 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the committee come out of non-public session; Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Methot – aye, Lamphere – aye, Cannon – aye, Hadik – aye, Rieter – aye, Stuart – aye, Jolin – aye. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

11. Return to Regular Meeting

a. Seal or Not Seal Minutes

Mr. Cannon moved that the minutes to the first non-public session, on Reputation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Methot – aye, Lamphere – aye, Cannon – aye, Hadik – aye, Rieter – aye, Stuart – aye, Jolin – aye. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Mr. Cannon moved that the minutes to the second non-public session, on Reputation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Methot – aye, Lamphere – aye, Cannon – aye, Hadik – aye, Rieter – aye, Stuart – aye, Jolin – aye. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Mr. Cannon moved that the minutes to the third non-public session, on Reputation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Methot – aye, Lamphere – aye, Cannon – aye, Hadik – aye, Rieter – aye, Stuart – aye, Jolin – aye. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

12. Adjourn

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM. Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary