

Chester 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee Meeting
(held remotely)
May 11, 2021
Approved Minutes
7:00 PM

Members present:

Jean Methot, Chairman
Rhonda Lamphere, Treasurer
Edward Stuart
Nancy Jolin
Chris Hadik

Members absent:

Sue Rieter
Selectman Stephen Landau

Guests present:

Jay Bishop
Jeff Dinopoulos
Chester PACT

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Methot called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance/Chairman's Announcement

3. Approval of Minutes

a. April 27, 2021

Mr. Hadik said on line 121, Ms. Jolin will speak with **Meranda**.

Ms. Lamphere moved to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2021, meeting as amended. Mr. Hadik seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Vacant Executive Position

Jeff Dinopoulos has accepted the invitation to join the Executive Committee. He appreciated the invitation and is willing to contribute however he can.

Ms. Lamphere moved to approve Jeff Dinopoulos as a new member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Hadik seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lamphere asked if he would be willing to serve as a liaison to the Proclamation Day event with Chairman Methot and he agreed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Lamphere reported that there is approximately \$23,593. Mr. Hadik asked if there had been any sales and Ms. Lamphere said the Town Clerk has \$45. Bittersweet has had no sales since October.

6. Member General Comments/Public Comments

7. Guests

a. Town Decorations

Chairman Methot reported that Bernadette Caldwell has decided she does not have time to help with the decorations. Ms. Lamphere said Bernadette is willing to help via phone or internet. She said that the American Legion Auxiliary is a very active group and maybe they would be willing to handle the decorations due to their patriotic nature. Chairman Methot will attend a meeting and speak to the group, but probably not until after their June meeting.

Chairman Methot and Mr. Bishop are speaking to the American Legion on Thursday. Ms. Lamphere said a couple of the key members will not be at that meeting. Ms. Jolin has asked them for a writeup for the commemorative booklet.

8. Old Business

a. Proclamation Event—Continued Discussion

1. Updates by anyone

The governor's invitation has been sent out. Ms. Lamphere is waiting until after the Town Meeting to send out the federal and state representatives' and senators' invitations, with Ms. Doda's help. The Selectmen's, School Board's, and other local officials' invitations will be sent in the fall to keep the event at top of mind.

Mr. Bishop said there is an impressive display of American flags and service organizations in Portsmouth. It is done by a veterans' organization. He believes it would make a good backdrop for Proclamation Day. The website is www.fenceforceflagline.com. The circle of flags could be placed around Stevens Hall. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Lamphere reported that the church meetinghouse will hold about 220 people, as a backup plan in case of rain. The Committee has considered offering refreshments in a tent behind the meetinghouse, but they have not asked the church yet.

Mr. Hadik suggested having the Boy Scouts erect their tents. Ms. Lamphere is not sure they still have tents, but they do have canopies. Mr. Hadik said the cost of this should be included in the grant request. This will be discussed later.

b. Number Plate Update-Chris

Mr. Hadik has not been able to get in touch with the state. He will try again. If there is no response, he will contact other vendors for pricing.

c. Sponsorships-Jay, Rhonda, Others

Chairman Methot asked Mr. Bishop when they were going to begin holding appointments. Ms. Lamphere said they have been waiting to fill the vacant position on the Executive Committee to avoid printing sheets for the packets with inaccurate information on them. Mr.

Bishop is ready as soon as the appointments are booked. Ms. Lamphere will make the necessary corrections to the script to reflect the recent changes and send it to the Committee members. Mr. Dinopoulos will contact the Comcast representative.

d. Car Show—Ed

The organizers of the car show have returned from Florida. Mr. Stuart is going to speak with A&A Balloon Rides to set up an appointment with them and Mr. Bishop to discuss the sponsorship. Mr. Stuart is concerned as balloon rides are dependent on the weather. Mr. Hadik asked if they are not interested in being a sponsor, would Mr. Stuart obtain an estimated cost and the Committee could set the price of the tickets. Mr. Stuart said another concern is that the rides usually take place early or late in the day due to the temperature. Ms. Lamphere suggested meeting with the representative at the school to show him where the rides might take place and obtain more information at that point.

e. Photographer—Nancy

Ms. Jolin spoke with the photographer. She will have a contract ready by the next meeting.

f. Town Meeting

Mr. Hadik will speak to the warrant article at the Town Meeting on May 15th, but the Town Moderator will not allow the Committee to have a table or booth at the meeting. Ms. Doda said a flyer could be put into the packet. He will create a draft flyer and send it to the Committee members to be approved. He will also announce that Gala tickets are available.

Ms. Lamphere recommended not announcing that this is the last annual warrant article in case expenses are more than anticipated or sponsorships are less than anticipated. She said the Library and the Town Clerk will also be telling gala tickets, as well as online.

9. New Business

a. Event Budgets

Chairman Methot said the Committee has to determine how much money needs to be brought in to pay for the events. They are relying on Mr. Bishop to bring in sponsorships as soon as possible. Ms. Lamphere said the Committee has to finalize a figure for the Proclamation soon.

Chairman Methot has someone who is willing to pay for the time capsule, but they want to remain anonymous.

b. Debra Curtin, Muralist—Jean

Chairman Methot said Ms. Curtin has written books and is a muralist. He spoke with the Board of Selectmen about putting a mural of the Concord Coach on the outside wall of the MPR. The Historical Society is willing to help with the cost. It will be ready for Proclamation Day and will bring attention to the town. Mr. Bishop has a source for this type of coach, so he might be able to include one in the parade.

c. Gala Update—Nancy/Rhonda

Ms. Jolin is going to set up options to purchase meals at the gala dinner. The Committee will incur a fee of \$2/ticket if the tickets are purchased online. Ms. Lamphere is working with Mrs. Methot to obtain clothing for mannequins.

d. Tickets

The Town Clerk and Library will be selling tickets. Mr. Hadik will announce at the Town Meeting that tickets are available and where. The Gala will be discussed further at the next meeting.

e. Meeting with the Lions Club, Thursday, May 13, 6:30, American Legion hall

Chairman Methot invited any interested Committee members to join him and Mr. Bishop at this meeting. They will explain what is being done for the celebration. Ms. Lamphere will bring copies of the event schedule and a packet.

f. Other New Business—

Ms. Lamphere has the members' badges and will distribute them. She will give each member ten tickets to sell. Credit card payments can be taken through the Square app.

10. Meeting Review/Assignments

11. Next Meeting – May 25, 2021

a. Topics – what to discuss next; what to further review

- Mural – probably will not have drawings by the next meeting.
- Guest will be attending next week to find out if she can participate in the celebration. events. The encampment would be the best place for this. Chairman Methot will ask Mr. Davidson if they are compatible. She has been told no politics are to be involved.
- Gala--Ms. Lamphere and Ms. Jolin are working on the mailer and will bring information to the next meeting.
- The contract for the photographer will be available at the next meeting.
- Chairman Methot will reach out to the American Legion Auxiliary regarding the decorations.
- Mr. Hadik will continue to try to reach someone regarding the number plates.
- Glassware for gala.

12. Adjourn

Ms. Lamphere moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM. Mr. Hadik seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary