

350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee

August 10, 2023 – Town Hall

Minutes

**Present:** Stacy Bond, Lindsay McCarthy, Mary King, Pat Shearer, Martha Morse, Bruce Kahn, Joan Stoia, Steve Stoia. Guests: Laurence Jarvis and Sharon Abbott of 25 St. Mary's Street.

**Called to order** by Bond at 6:32 pm.

**Citizen input:** Laurence Jarvis said that he was attending out of interest and curiosity.

**7-6-23 minutes:** Bruce moved and Martha seconded that the minutes from 7-6-23 be approved. Unanimous.

**Treasurer's report:** Lindsay reported that we will have extra money to give back to the town because nearly every focus category is spending less than anticipated. Mary noted that partly it's because the Community Engagement group fundraised and received grants which offset several of the history focus events' lecture fees. In addition, the Historical Commission paid an invoice for the Calvin Swan sign, and members of the Open Space Committee contributed design time on that sign and on 3 revised trail guides by adding historical content; printing of the tri-fold guides was funded by the 350<sup>th</sup> committee. Cooperation with town committees as well as the work of the CE committee saved the town money.

**Merchandise sales:** t-shirts are available! The first sales were by online ordering through Silverscreen, and our next effort will be ordering through the 350<sup>th</sup> committee with orders bundled, then sent through. We will have shirts for sale on Parade Day. A t-shirt costs \$22. Joan asked if we can buy each sponsor a shirt? She will provide a list to Lindsay.

**Parade:** A written update was acknowledged. Lindsay will work with Samantha Tavares on **vendors** in order to simplify what they need to do to be included. There will not be a charge, about 10 booths will be set up for 2-3 hours selling wares. Only food sales require extra licensing. Stacy will oversee **vehicles** in the parade since Alex Meisner has left the committee, and she feels confident that there will be a good number of them. The parade will run 1:00-3:00. **Food trucks/vendors** are an issue since the Big E is happening too. Festivities at Four Star post-parade include music (Bruce needs help moving the sound equipment there after the parade...Junior Firefighters?), activities for kids (face painting, big sandbox etc., is this our responsibility?). 'No parking' signs are needed too. Paper-wrapped **candy tossing** from floats was discussed. Many people want it to happen, Stacy reported that public pressure is being felt. The Police Chief has no problem with it. After discussion, a **motion** was made by Mary that due to popular demand wrapped candy tossed from floats be allowed, seconded by Bruce. The motion passed, with Joan abstaining.

**Fireworks:** Stacy reported that if bad weather happens the fireworks could take place earlier or later on that day. Only horrible or dangerous weather will postpone or cancel the events of Sept. 30. Observers of the fireworks will watch from north of the food truck. Our fireworks will be middle-range on the loudness scale.

**350<sup>th</sup> Rec Comm Softball Game:** Frontier Community Cable will videotape it, and the game will be called. We have cool shirts. Deerfield vs Northfield, at the West Northfield Playground, the VFW will sell refreshments, and there will be an after-party at the Vets. Saturday August 12! Cool idea Stacy.

**Preservation of pictures from the 350<sup>th</sup>:** Norm Eggert was not in attendance to talk about using a company to create an online book that can be printed on demand. Discussion of a product to preserve the 350<sup>th</sup> year included the points that it will take a lot of effort; some feel that a book is not necessary and might not be popular; there is a cost in both dollars and time; and the preservation of our 350<sup>th</sup> webpage by the library may be adequate. After the parade is accomplished and our schedule is lightened, this topic needs to be looked into further: what does

webpage preservation actually mean? and what interest is there is in making public our abundance of photos? (Future agenda items).

**Chair's report:** Stacy commends everyone for the good and long work we have done over the last 2 years. Several events are still ahead including the parade and fireworks but we can be proud of what we have accomplished in this town that we love.

**Open Focus Group Discussion: Kids & Families:** Pat ran through the programs still to come that she is working on, including the Geology of Northfield talk, and a walk with Prof. Rich Little on 10/7; the Piti Theatre play at the elementary school in the fall for which Nolan Kitfield, Jonathan Mirin and Stacy are key figures; a horse drawn wagon ride on 11/4 coordinated with the church holiday fairs (TCC and St. Patrick's); on 12/3, gingerbread house making at TCC; and luminaries to round out our 350<sup>th</sup> year on 12/31. Pat is meeting with her committee on the Northfield history book for every student, and Joan has ideas from her work with the Klines on oral history that will enhance the book project. **Entertainment:** Bruce said that four music events have been well attended, and there will be another on Parade Day at the Brewery. He is still working on a photo contest and presented a draft description of it. Lindsay will beautify this promotion, to be presented to the public. **Community Involvement:** The People vs. the Pipeline project will happen in November but finding a venue is challenging. 'A Christmas Carol' will not take place because of Lucinda Kidder stepping down from the theater. Steve is working with Magic Wings to find a family-oriented spectacle for the late part of 2023, a long-string marionette play perhaps. More information later!

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:21 on a motion by Bruce, seconded by Steve, unanimous.

Next meeting: Thurs., Sept. 7, 6:30 Town Hall.

Respectfully,



Mary King