

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

Business meeting May 5, 2022

### Minutes

**Present:** Stacy Bond, Pat Shearer, Mary King, Joan Stoia, Steve Stoia, Brian Brault, Lindsay McCarthy, Rhoda Yucavitch, Bruce Kahn. Members not present: Alex Meisner, Carol O'Brien, Magda Ponce-Castro, Sue Ross. Guests: Carrie Kline, Michael Kline, Nancy Caldwell, Martha Morse, Mary Key, Scott Key, Nancy Billings.

**Called to order** by Bond at 6:33 pm.

**Minutes, 4-7--22:** **MOTION** by Kahn to accept as corrected, second by S. Stoia, passed.

**Oral History Project update:** Carrie and Michael performed the song *If the World Had a Front Porch*, and Michael described the training of volunteers as a wonderful bonding experience, in vulnerability and trust. He said that local resident Joe Graveline, who has indigenous roots, was interviewed in front of the group as part of their training, and Joe described afterwards that he "was given a wonderful spiritual gift" to be able to tell his story, to be recorded so that "generations as yet unborn will be able to learn from me". Nancy Caldwell, one of the trained volunteers, said that both the training technique and the spirit of the project were great and beneficial to each trainee. Their experience as they were trained will help them make the interviewees feel comfortable. They will work in pairs as they interview and record. The interviewer group will have a meeting soon to review use of the recording equipment and their ethos. Michael ended by praising our public library and Director Misha Storm for her many skills, and her willingness to have the library assist in whatever ways the staff can to create space for interviews, house the equipment, and assure access to the finished product... a recorded history of Northfield's people and memories as we approach our 350<sup>th</sup> year.

**Chair's report:** Bond reported that annual town meeting voted \$60,000 for the anniversary commemoration. It will be available in the new fiscal year. Budget talks with each focus group will happen soon and a subsequent recommendation will be brought to the Steering Committee about money allotments to each of the focus groups. Community Engagement secured \$5000 from two local businesses to support the Shriners as part of the parade!!! Location and provider of



fireworks is going to change for good reasons, and after talking to the Fire Chief and our likely new fireworks provider about a good location, information and recommendations will be brought to the Steering Committee for discussion and vote. The fireworks budget will need to be increased too. Two 350<sup>th</sup> committee members have written letters of resignation, Carol O'Brien and Susan Ross. Ross will continue working with the History Focus group, and from her position as Historical Society chair. A committee of 11 and quorum of 6 is a good match for the 350 committee at this point, no new members are being sought.

Merchandising of pottery and other memorabilia is still being organized. Four Star is willing to sell pottery, mugs especially. Cameron's would like a display of the pottery under a safe hard plastic shell, with a handout sending interested buyers to DVAA to purchase, or to the website if the extra cost of shipping isn't a problem for them. J. Stoia's idea of using the backroom of Fiddleheads (DVAA) as a shop will be investigated. Vital points:

1. Every focus group Coordinator must submit a report a week before a 350<sup>th</sup> meeting to the Chair (**northfield350@gmail.com**) to be shared with the full committee
2. A focus group leader is a **Coordinator**, so please use this identifier, not director or manager or any other. This was agreed upon in late 2020.
3. Communicate... it is so important now that the big year is coming fast. No unilateral decisions, run things by the Chair before acting please.  
Remember that anything requiring a signature goes to the Chair first.

**Treasurer's report:** covered in Chair's report.

**Schedule Focus Group Budget meetings:** as stated above, these meetings by zoom are essential in order to set revised financial amounts now that the annual budget is set. The dates and times agreed to are

- 5/12 Thurs 6:30 History Focus
- 5/12 Thurs 7:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5/19 Thurs 6:30 Community Engagement
- 5/25 Wednes 6:30 Entertainment
- 5/25 Wednes 7:15 Children's

Parade Focus group needs to be scheduled as soon as possible.

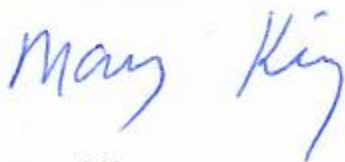


## Contracts:

- **Partnership agreements/Event partners:** a form that will reside on the google drive has been devised to help us as we set venues and work with partners. Not each field will be relevant to every situation, but the downloadable form will guide us toward consistency and full information, and be useful in PR and marketing. Please review the paper copy given out, and test the form on the Google drive for discussion at our next meeting.
- **MassDOT parade letter:** discussion took place concerning a letter to the Mass. Dept. of Transportation that was submitted to the Selectboard by the Parade Focus Group Coordinator. It was removed by request of Bond from the Selectboard agenda as there were unanswered questions remaining and no opportunity made available to discuss the situation. The 350<sup>th</sup> committee wants to consolidate all our MassDOT concerns into one letter to that agency, and as Chair of 350<sup>th</sup>, Bond expects to have input and to be a signer. Everyone agreed that this is appropriate. The need for communication and respect for a hierarchy of responsibility within the 350<sup>th</sup> efforts was emphasized. We discussed appropriate communication and taking care as we move forward. No action was taken on this issue as key Parade people were not present to answer remaining questions.

**Next meeting:** June 2, 2022 at 6:30 in person. PHOTOGRAPHERS on the agenda.  
**Adjourned** at 8:02 pm, **MOTION** by King, seconded by Kahn; unanimous approval.

Respectfully,



Mary King