

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

April 6, 2023 – Town Hall

Minutes

**Present:** Stacy Bond, Lindsay McCarthy, Mary King, Pat Shearer, Martha Morse, Magda Ponce-Castro, Bruce Kahn, Joan Stoia, Rhoda Yucavitch, Steve Stoia.

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

**Citizen input:** none.

**3-2-23 minutes:** Pat moved and Bruce seconded that the minutes from 3-2-23 be approved. Unanimous.

**Treasurer's report:** \$9466 in merchandise has sold. This is drawing close to the amount we have spent on merchandise, but we still have a deficit at this early date. Crocks and mugs are our bestsellers in pottery. We now offer a glass mug with logo too.

**Merchandise sales table:** Lindsay asked that we reconsider a decision to not allow other organizations' merchandise at our pop-up sales table. Lindsay was not present when this was decided. Since she is 350<sup>th</sup> Treasurer and plans, sets up and handles the sales and has held this responsibility right along, she should be able to make relevant decisions. Discussion ensued. Points against selling other merchandise included that selling historical society materials, for example, could take attention away from 350<sup>th</sup> merch, especially if the table is not set up to display 350<sup>th</sup> prominently; inviting other organizations to sell is fine but they should staff their own tables themselves; having other stock at our table sets up a direct competition for the \$10 a person may have brought to support a local event. Other thoughts were that the 350<sup>th</sup> should be generous and open to our town organizations, that it is not too much work to take on the sales of another organization, that volunteers could help if it became too busy. It was pointed out that the person who is responsible for sales events should have the authority to make decisions as long as the 350<sup>th</sup> is top priority and all organizations are treated fairly in our procedures. Pat commented "we should be generous." *Stacy asked that anyone having thoughts about procedures or a policy email them to her by April 13.*

**Piti Theatre/NES:** Kellee Davis and Jim Trill of the elementary school and Jonathan Mirin of Piti Theatre are all in contact with each other.

**Parade:** Magda reported that Kat Kennedy is doing the "on paper" aspects of parade planning and Mags is handling logistics and lots of the communications. Parade is under budget generally but very recently our police department said that we need to rent two flashing digital detour signs, for two weeks. This is an unexpected expense and Mags will get a price and report to Lindsay as soon as possible. Help identifying bands for the parade will be very much appreciated, send the names to Magda. The cut-off date for having a float in the parade is June 15. Printed forms to give to sponsors and other interested parties are needed and Mags will send the Stoias a Word document. A float entry form is available on the webpage too. Committee members also want to know who has signed up to enter a float already.

**Architecture guide:** the booklet which Judi Campbell has prepared combining a brief history of architectural styles with photos of Northfield houses that exemplify some of these styles was reviewed. Steve asked that Judi be made aware that the committee is impressed by her hard work and the love for Northfield that her publication shows. Recommendations include that a cover of cardboard or spiral binding be considered, that a disclaimer be included since the booklet is the work of an avid student of architecture not a professional, and that each homeowner of a house included be notified and given the opportunity to say no to inclusion. The committee suggests, since merchandise is not selling quickly now, that the guide be offered free of charge or for \$5.00.

**Chair's report:** \*the first payment has been sent to the Pioneer Valley Symphony. \* Bunting has been ordered for the 8 windows at the front of the Town Hall building. \* Jan Herlihy is writing thank you notes for donations to the 350<sup>th</sup>. \*The video of the Sokoki talk is being prepared (FCAT, not BNCTV.) \* Agreements have been reached for a 350<sup>th</sup> logo beer at Four Star Brewery! Lindsay will clarify details with Chris at the brewery. \*The recreation commission will have lots of children walking in the parade. \*Tree Fiftieth is receiving very healthy donations and will seek grants too. \*The 350<sup>th</sup> zoom account is up and running, and Pat has used it...ask Stacy if you also want to. \*The David Brule talk about King Philip's War was wonderful and very well attended. \*Photo release forms are available and should be used if our photographer takes a close-up picture of a child. We will use discretion in deciding what to post too. \*Lindsay will check with Andrea regarding Bruce's wish to run a bar tab as payment for musicians as their honorarium for providing music.

**Open Focus Group Discussion: Community Engagement:** Joan said that promotion via 4 newspapers and WHAI radio is going very well. Sponsors report they really like hearing their business names broadcast on radio. A Mass Cultural Festival grant that Community Engagement applied for is providing \$350 for the speaker of a history program that shows cultural diversity in Northfield's past (Abijah Prince, King Philip aka Massasoit), as well as money for the promotion of other small events and for gathering important telephone interviews for the oral history project. Fundraising for programming that will highlight Northfield's role in stopping the NED pipeline is proceeding, and Magic Wings may support the "A Christmas Carol" production. **History Focus:** Mary showed two trail guides that have been developed by Northfield's Open Space Committee with added historical information included. The Northfield Historical Commission advised, Julia Blyth and Joanne McGee did the research, writing and design, and the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee provided the funds for printing these new trifold trail guides in quantity. **Kids & Families:** Pat said that Kids and Families group is considering a picnic, maybe after the softball game on the westside. If this plan proceeds the West Northfield Playground should be included immediately in negotiations because they will have food for sale as a fundraiser at that event and might not welcome having picnic food brought in by individuals. A tractor parade is under consideration in October, with pumpkins all around town. Pat suggests that our August 350<sup>th</sup> meeting be held on the river at Shearer family property if it is allowable as an open and accessible location according to state law. Pat also recommended that we do something to recognize and appreciate all the people who are volunteering to make this 350<sup>th</sup> the great series of events that it is turning out to be.

**Fireworks:** the contract is signed, a downpayment has been made, and insurance arrangements are satisfactory to all parties!

**Dinner/dance:** tickets are nearly sold out!


**Golf tournament:** moving forward satisfactorily.

**Time capsule: MOTION:** Pat moved and Bruce seconded that 350<sup>th</sup> funds up to \$600 can be spent on a wooden box being made by Franklin County Tech for use as a time capsule. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:35 on a motion by Bruce, seconded by Pat, unanimous.

Next meeting: Thurs., May 4. 6:30 Town Hall.

Respectfully,

  
Mary King