I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eileen Francolino called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in Room L-101

- Chair Francolino asked the members of the committee to introduce themselves and the following members were present:

Beth Manke Hutvagner
Allison Smith
Nancy Smith
Patricia Foley
Robert Blank
Melanie Enfield
Cathy Miket-Piombo
Kathleen Marie Clark
Dennis Morgan
Susan Gibbon
Anna Kubish
Joe Dubin
Tom Tallard
Diane Durant
Melanie Depamphilis
Eileen Francolino

- Also present at the meeting were Carol Anest, Town Councilor; Tim Manke, Town Councilor and James Krupienski, Town Clerk

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice Chair - Beth Manke Hutvagner
Treasurer - Allison Smith
Secretary - Susan Gibbon

III. ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS COMMISSION

- Chair Francolino stated that the Town Council provided the Committee with $5,000 to get started and in order to hold events the Committee needs to raise money. Chair Francolino stated that she created a Town of Newington 150th Anniversary Facebook page, as well as Instagram and Twitter accounts. She also handed out a list of ideas to raise funds. She also mentioned that we need to have a "design a logo" contest so that we can have something that identifies the 150th Anniversary. She also talked about various time capsules buried at the elementary schools throughout the town.

- Patty Foley stated that the Town of Wallingford is celebrating their 150th anniversary as well, and they may have some good ideas. She stated that we need the rules, policies and procedures for being on a town committee, FOI and minutes from the 125th Anniversary Committee
• Chair Francolino stated that she did have minutes from the 125th Anniversary and will have them available through the Facebook page, she also stated that the Town Clerk is checking on the FOI requirements. She also stated that she set up a gmail account, which will keep email addresses private.

• Patty Foley stated that she has received information from the person who wrote a play for the Town’s 100th anniversary celebration and stated that NCTV has discussed ways to perform it. NCTV has a new show coming out and part of the show is Newington Trivia. She is asking each member of the committee to provide ten questions about Newington. She also stated that the Shad Derby which is held in Windsor does amazing things. She also stated that there aren’t enough people around the table to put all the events on.

• Chair Francolino stated that this is a steering committee; if someone wants to run a parade committee, the members on the parade committee can come from the public. Hopefully we will have a lot more people to help.

• Cathy Miket-Piombo asked if this was going to be a weekend long event or just one event. What are we going to do?

• Chair Francolino stated that is something that the committee will need to decide. We need money to do things. What do we want to do? Reserved a booth at the Extravaganza; need to think of something to sell there. Montana Ax gives away their bottle returns. It is first come-first served.

• Committee Member asked what is the actual date of the 150th anniversary is.

• Vice-Chair Manke Hutvagner stated that we should decide soon whether or not we want it to be a year-long, month-long event for planning purposes.

• Chair Francolino stated that for the last anniversary celebration, they did one event per month and many people thought that was too much. It depends on what we want to do. I think a parade is a must.

• Patty Foley stated the incorporation date is July 17th.

• Susan Gibbon stated that July 17, 2021 is the 3rd Saturday in July (day of the Extravaganza).

• Chair Francolino stated that we should have one event per season.

• Vice-Chair Manke Hutvagner asked when she would want the parade to be? A discussion was held regarding parades, fees and scheduling, bands, etc.

• Chair Francolino stated that where the bus garage is now, that used to be a factory that made barrel staves. Thinking we could make something cool out of barrel staves and sell them.

• Susan Gibbon stated that it is important that we get a logo designed for the anniversary celebration. Once that is done it can be used on stationary, mugs, hats, etc.

• Melanie Enfield stated that one event could be a tour of the Center Cemetery. That is actually 300 years old. Also to do a walking tour of the town.

• Chair Francolino thinks that having a cemetery tour is a great idea. Maybe even during Halloween time. A discussion was held regarding the event at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Newington and having people dress up, etc. The Cemetery Tour has been made an official sub-committee being led by Melanie Enfield. Kathy Clark described how the event is run at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

• Town Historian is Gail Kelly. She is an ex-officio member.
• Chair Francolino stated that she on the Facebook page she will be putting out a call for volunteers. Please fill out the form, let me know what you are good at. Think about good ideas, maybe if we come back in two weeks. Need to think of ways to raise money.

• Cathy Miket-Piombo asked if maybe we could to a wine tasting with sponsors.

• Chair Francolino stated that the Town of Bellingham (MA) is holding their 300th anniversary this year. They solicited 50 people to donate $150, that is $7,500. Think we could come up with 50 people to come up with $150. As soon as we get our logo done, we can put an ad in the paper.

• Vice-Chair Manke Hutvagner stated that maybe we can do a Newington trivia night with teams and serve drinks and hors d’oeuvres. Have someone well known in town host the event. That is a good way to kick-start things. Maybe we can do it this winter or fall?

• Chair Francolino stated that we should use local vendors as much as possible. It is important to support the local community.

• Dennis Morgan stated that another idea to generate money is to have people decorate a barrel and have them around town. We can then auction them off. Mr. Morgan will look in to this.

• Chair Francolino stated that the last time they sold the daffodils people adopted a spot throughout town. We can have people adopt spots and order bulbs at the extravaganza.

• Vice-Chair Manke Hutvagner stated that we should offer t-shirts, etc. Use a Newington business; ask them to let people order on line. A discussion was held regarding what to offer, etc.

• Chair Francolino showed the committee a picture of a poster made up of different objects. A thought was that we could make a poster of different Newington Landmarks and locations, the waterfall, library, Eddy Farm, etc., or even a photography book of pictures from town.

• Melanie Depamphilis stated that they took a drone picture of people in the park (100) and people wanted to buy the poster because they were in it. Consensus around the table is that was a great idea.

• Chair Francolino asked when the committee wants to meet and how often? A discussion was held and it was decided that Thursdays at 6:30 was a good time to meet.

• Cathy Clark and Dennis Morgan stated that they knew people who are interested in working on the committee.

The next 150th Anniversary Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Susan Gibbon at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Anna Kubish. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Secretary ~ 150th Anniversary Steering Committee