TOWN OF NEWINGTON
150th Anniversary Steering Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 13, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Francolino called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Art Room at the Senior Center

II. ROLL CALL
Robert Blank
Kathleen Marie Clark
Joseph W. Dubin
Diane Durant
Melanie Enfield Tinkham (6:33 p.m.)
Patricia Foley
Michael J. Fox
Eileen Francolino
Susan Gibbon
Beth Manke Hutvagner
Laura Irons
Anna Kubish
Cathy Milet-Piombo
Dennis Morgan (6:34 p.m.)
Allison Smith
Nancy Smith
Maxwell Turgeon

Also in attendance James Krupienski, Town Clerk (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion to accept the minutes by Joseph Durant, seconded by Michael Fox. Motion passed unanimously. Patty Foley abstained.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
• None

V. REMARKS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
• None

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS
A. Fund Raising
1. Trivia Night-set a date
   • Patty Foley stated that we need more questions. We currently have about 70. Could use about 100 more. Many good questions. Going to talk with the company who puts the trivia night on. Want to do several and not use the same questions. Was told that they charge $125.00 for 2.5 hours.
• Vice Chair Hutvagner stated that if it is going to be at T.J.s maybe they could donate a
gift card for a prize. It will be good publicity for them
• Patty Foley stated that maybe we can do it other places as well, and at different times.
• A further discussion was held regarding holding an event at the Senior Center in 2021
  for the seniors, free of charge.
• There will be several held in 2020 as fundraising events.

Susan Gibbon made a motion to move Item C.1 for discussion earlier since Patty Foley needs to
leave early.

• Patty Foley thanked Robert Blank and Dennis Morgan for helping find all the places the
tapes exist. Our sister station will be transposing them for us. I sent the list of all the
people interviewed to Chair Francolino. There were 39 people interviewed. Some of
the people are no longer with us. I have a quote for at least $10 apiece (approximately
$100) Share cost. Will not be done until early August. We will be able to put together
a nice piece from these, and people may want to purchase them.
• Susan Gibbon made a motion to support the project. Seconded by Anna Kubish. Motion
passed unanimously.

2. Cemetery Tour
• Tabled until the next meeting.

3. Daffodil Sale
• Chair Francolino asked if anyone wanted take this on. She gave an overview of the
how the sale worked when they did it for the 125th Anniversary celebration.
• Cathy Miket-Piombo asked how profitable this was.
• Chair Francolino stated that this raised between six and seven thousand dollars; it was
something to make Newington look beautiful.
• Vice Chair Hutvagner stated that maybe we could have someone create a website and
order them from there; have locations to pick from throughout town.
• Chair Francolino stated the problem is how to order. Do we put it online? Last time
they sent paper order forms home with the kids in school; they were in the papers.
• Kathy Clark mentioned that maybe we could contact our garden club.
• A motion was made to table this until Chair Francolino does further research.

4. Extravaganza (Avery Soda logistics; sale of painting)
• Chair Francolino stated that Melanie Depamphilis has been in contact with Avery Soda.
She has also been in contact with the t-shirt guy regarding the logo. Would like to send
via email to everyone to vote on. Avery Soda is heavy and not easy. All decided to let
Melanie pick the flavors. There are a few things that concern me about the Avery
Soda. First if the glass bottles. Another thing is these will have labels on them, will
they come off if in the water?
• Melanie Tinkham suggested just having a few in ice and others there to sell.
• Anna Kubish stated that people will just buy them because it is for the 150th
Anniversary and may not drink them.
• Chair Francolino stated that we could have a cooler with ice; serve them in cups.
• Patty Foley suggested putting the sodas in to plastic bags/sleeves so that the labels don’t
get wet.
• A discussion was held regarding getting a sign for the tent at the extravaganza.
• Chair Francolino is calling Image Ink regarding this.
• Susan Gibbon and Anna Kubish asked about tables and chairs.
• Vice Chair Hutvagner talked about having a guessing contest of areas around Newington. Will have one winner.

5. 150 Club
• Chair Francolino stated that we need to have our calendar set before we can do this. Will table for now.

6. T-Shirts—pick a logo, marketing strategy
• Previously discussed.

7. Can/bottle collection
• Chair Francolino stated that Kathy Sullivan is working on that.

8. Poster
• Chair Francolino stated that she put something out on Facebook; did get one response with some pretty good pictures. Need to work on.
• Tabled to next meeting.

9. Bowl-a-thon
• Michael Fox stated that he spoke to Tom about this and he has been working with the Callahan’s regarding availability. Tom is hoping to have more than 200 kids participate. Will suggest to him that we both go and talk with the Callahan’s.
• Chair Francolino stated that even if it is not a bowlathon.
• Tabled until next meeting.

10. Comedy Night—set a date
• Cathy Miket-Piombo stated that she has calls out to several places. I called the High School; a couple of people are checking with St. Mary Church; I called Indian Hill, spoke with Louise, room would be $750 plus 20% for admin fees, plus tax. Spoke with some comedians; cost would be $400-$500 for two comedians at 45 minutes. Contacted Scot Haney to see if he would volunteer; need nine to ten months notice. Spoke with Elise at the High School, room may be free since it is a Newington event; she stated that the AV students and drama club could possibly help. Thought it would be fun to have Ms. Newington and Ms. Connecticut there as well. Picked a tentative date of June 27, 2020.
• Chair Francolino asked how many people can St. Mary’s hold.
• Max Turgeon stated that is can hold quite a few people.
• Max and Anna Kubish stated that their concern with holding it a St. Mary’s is that it does not interfere with their comedy night.
• Chair Francolino asked about the Polish American Club.
• A discussion was held regarding this. Need to check with other organizations to make sure we are not encroaching on their dates.
• Cathy Miket-Piombo, Anna Kubish, Max Turgeon and Annemarie Turnbull are all part of this subcommittee.

B. EVENTS

1. Build a Snowman/Sculpture—set a date
• Chair Francolino stated that she spoke to Bill DeMaio about this. Can truck snow in from the ice skating rink. Will be at Mill Pond along the path. Bill suggested doing this in January. Need something stronger to kick off the celebration.
• Robert Blank suggested making the basketball court into an ice rink for skating. Make a day out of it.
• A discussion was held regarding a skating rink - where and how to put it.
• The pasta dinner was brought up. Something to think about. Tabled to next meeting.
• Melanie Tinkham asked if we were going to have both the ball and the parade? Why not start off with the ball?
• Chari Francolino stated that the problem with that is that we wanted to hold at the new gym at the new town hall. Make it a Harvest Ball. Bill DeMaio suggested that we have it at the new gym.
• A discussion was held regarding this.

2. Parade/Birthday celebration/Fireworks-set a date
• Chair Francolino stated that the fireworks at Motorcycle Madness cost $3,000 and they were awesome. Think this something we should consider. Parade will be held in the afternoon end of September, early October.
• Cathy Miket-Piombo stated that she thought we were going to celebrate the birthday in July.
• Chair Francolino stated that we will probably do something at the Extravaganza.
• Susan Gibbon suggested having the mayor and town council at the time read the town proclamation.
• A discussion was held regarding dates of other local fairs.
• Chair Francolino stated that we will shoot for October 16th, 2021 for this.

3. Play
• Chair Francolino asked if anyone wanted to take this on. It is a huge task.
• Patty Foley stated that the script was put away and is looking for it.
• Tabled until next meeting.

4. Mayors’ Ball-set a date
• Chair Francolino asked when we wanted to do this.
• Vice Chair Hutvagner suggested we no do it in a now month.
• Chair Francolino suggest early November.
• Kathy Clark stated that she received a calendar from the 125th Anniversary celebration; had the dates of all the anniversary events and other town events as well.
• Dennis Morgan asked if we were going to have a calendar as a fundraiser. The consensus was that we should.
• The date for the Mayor’s Ball will be November 13, 2021 and will be held at the new town hall double gymnasium.
• Will look into alternate sites if the town hall is not done. A discussion was held regarding this.
• Tabled until next meeting.

5. Drone Picture-set a date
• Chair Francolino stated that she would like to do that this summer and we will do this on a Thursday night of the concert series. Will discuss with Bill DeMaio.
• Chair Francolino stated that she will put this on the 150th Facebook page, as well as What’s Happening in Newington once a date is set.
6. History of Town Update
- Dennis Morgan stated that his goal is to produce a pamphlet regarding the town history. Short term will come up with an annotated bibliography and some maps. Before this came up I had been doing some research, based mostly on the house I am living in. Will have this at our next meeting. If the town historian is not available, maybe ask someone to be a liaison from the historical society.
- Cathy Miket-Piombo stated that she should talk to Linda at the library. She is a wealth of information.
- Dennis stated that there are many resources in the library. On Main Street there is a craftsman style house that was reconstructed from the place it was in 1721. Found the map in the History of Newington’s Founding Years. It was part of a master’s thesis. The old town center used to be by Robbins and Main. Dennis gave a history of the owner of the house. He suggested Google Books if anyone wants to do their own research. In 1712 the Wethersfield West Society was created, and the first assembly was held in an outbuilding at the corner of Main and Cedar. If anyone is interested in doing research, let me know. Our town clerk has been an invaluable resource. In closing stated he loved the idea of the skating rink.
- Cathy Clark stated that she went to the state library and there is an entire shelf dedicated to Newington.
- Chair Francolino stated that she when Dennis is finished with his project, she would like to hold an event in able to recognize what was done.
- A discussion was held regarding events in 2021.

7. Blood drive - set a date
- Chair Francolino stated that she would like to do this as a way to give back. Maybe hold it in February 2021. The Red Cross generally does something to have people come out and donate. Goal is to collect 150 pints of blood. Will contact Red Cross regarding a date.

8. Eddy Farm Event - set a date
- Chair Francolino suggested that we hold events in August.
- Susan Gibbon suggested maybe holding two events; a dinner and tour.
- Robert Blank suggested having a picnic at Deming Farm at the grass around the house. Have games, etc.
- Vice Chair Hutvagner suggested that we hold a dinner at Eddy Farm and a picnic at Deming Farm (May of 2021).
- Deming Young gives tours on Saturdays.

C. MISCELLANEOUS
1. NCTV Tapes
   - Discussed earlier.

2. Statues
   - Susan Gibbon stated that she hadn’t had a chance to work on this.
   - Kathy Clark stated that she mentioned this to other people and the barrel doesn’t seem like it will go over well; barrels will just look like trash barrels.
   - A discussion was held as to what else can be done. Looking in to possibly having cows; Susan Gibbon will research this.
   - Tabled until next meeting.
3. House Tours
- Alison Smith stated that Newington doesn’t seem to have as many old houses as Windsor. It was a hit in Windsor and people were open to showing off their house and the history of their house. Don’t know the extent of the possibility of that in Newington.
- Chair Francolino stated that we have had garden tours in the past; that may be something to look into.
- Dennis Morgan stated that he identified many houses in Newington that are historical. Asked if Alison received information regarding the subcommittee regarding historical buildings; including Gerry and Dave Nagel.
- Alison Smith and Dennis Morgan will look into having house tours.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Night of Lights - ice carving
- Chair Francolino stated that this will be our closing event; to be held in December 2021.

B. 150 Acts of Kindness
- Chair Francolino stated that she thought this would be a good idea to do. It doesn’t cost any money; can do it in March or April. Can post them online or in town on the board outside CVS. Do 150 Acts of Kindness for our 150 years.
- Vice Chair Hutvagner stated that it could be testimonials.
- Chair Francolino stated we can do that in March or April.

C. Food Pantry Collection
- Chair Francolino stated that when we have an event, request that people bring food for the Newington Food Pantry.

D. Future Meeting Dates
- Chair Francolino stated that we need to set a calendar for future meeting dates. Our next two meetings will be June 27th and July 11th; take a break until the end of August. Go every other week for the rest of the year. Dates for meetings are August 29th, September 12th, September 26th, October 10th, October 24th, November 7th, November 21st, December 5th, December 19th (2019) and January 9th and 23rd (2020).
- James Krupienski, Town Clerk stated that we should set the dates through January so they can be set with the town.
- Cathy Milet-Piombo made a motion that these are the meeting dates for the committee; seconded by Susan Gibbon. Motion passed unanimously.
- Chair Francolino stated that we can always hold a special meeting if we need to.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- None.

IX. REMARKS
- Cathy Milet-Piombo asked if we wanted to do time capsule.
- Tabled to the next meeting.
- Robert Blank suggested that we have a teen night at a slow night at the Extravaganza; close the park at 9 and let the kids have something until 11.
• Chair Francolino stated that there is a noise ordinance; cannot do that.

• Chair Francolino stated that she wanted to hold an event similar to what they do in Boerne, Texas (America’s Laziest Road Race). It will be a 1.50K race for people who don’t train; it can go around the park and there will be “hazards” you have to do during the run. Have other events as well. Make a day of it. It will be something fun to do. Have teams, dress up and have fun!

• Dennis Morgan found that there are 20 houses built in the 1700’s and 40 built in the 1800’s in Newington.

• Max Turgeon suggested holding a golf outing at Indian Hill Country Club. He will look into having something in September/October 2020. Max also stated that he will be in Ireland from September – December.

X. Adjournment
• Michael Fox moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Seconded by Susan Gibbon. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Secretary - 150th Anniversary Steering Committee