TOWN OF NEWINGTON
150th ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Eileen Francolino called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room L-101.

II. ROLL CALL
Robert Blank
Cathleen Marie Clark
Joseph Dubin
Diane Durant
Patty Foley
Michael J. Fox
Eileen Francolino
Susan Gibbon
Anna Kubish
Beth Manke Hutvagner
Cathy Mikel-Piombo
Dennis Morgan
Allison Smith
Thomas Tallard
Max Turgeon

Also present James Krupienski, Town Clerk

III. Approval of Minutes
Motion by Michael J. Fox to accept the minutes; seconded by Beth Manke-Hutvagner. Patty Foley abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Remarks by Committee Members on Public Participation
• None.

VI. Consideration of Old Business
• Diane Durant passed around items that her father had from the 100th Anniversary of Newington.

A. Fund Raising
1. Trivia Night-set a date
   • Patty Foley asked if anyone had any comment regarding the use of the trivia company. She also stated that she needs at least 100 more questions. Need more difficult ones for tiebreakers, etc. Met with the company at T.J.’s.
   • Chair Francolino stated that we don’t have a calendar currently. Trying to set dates for fundraisers so we can put it on the Chamber of Commerce calendar.
   • Patty Foley stated that she will talk with T.J.s for a date in February or March. Do we want to hold this on a Friday or Saturday? Discussion was held to have it as its own event; not on a Tuesday and possibly a Thursday.
• Patty was looking to possibly have it at another venue (the PAC) BYOB, etc.
• Joe Dubin stated that if it is at the PAC it could be on a Friday or Saturday.
• Chair Francolino stated that it would be great if we could get someone to sponsor the event. Patty stated that she was looking into that.

2. Cemetery Tour
• A discussion was held when to hold this event. It was stated October 2020 and October 2021.
• Kathy Clark asked if it was going to be in conjunction with another event.
• Beth Manke Hutvagner stated that we discussed having it in conjunction with the Waterfall Festival.
• Kathy Clark stated that is a good idea. Have it during the day (12 - 4). Spoke with Melanie and her husband is working on the history of people. She stated that she doesn’t think that we should hold it to close to Halloween; not a ghost tour. Have spoken to many actors in town regarding doing this. She also stated that the Hartford Courant is a good source of information.

3. Daffodil Sale
• Chair Francolino stated that the library is holding a bulb sale this year. Beth Manke Hutvagner stated that she will discuss with them to see if our committee can do the sale next year. Will discuss further at a future meeting.

4. Extravaganza (Avery Soda; logistics; sale of painting
• Chair Francolino stated that Melanie Depamphilis ordered the t-shirts (will sell for $20.)
• The Avery soda will be picked up on Friday. (Prices = $3 each; (2) for $5; (6) for $12). A discussion was held regarding how to keep the sodas cold, etc.
• Diane Durant will be providing a tent; Allison Smith will be providing tables.
• Chair Francolino stated that painting (of the waterfall) from Janice Reynolds is done. Eileen is having 5x7 prints made; purchased mats for them. The original painting will be auctioned off at the Mayor’s Ball.
• Susan Gibbon suggested having the print limited to 150 and ask Janice Reynolds if she can sign the mats (we will number them.) A discussion was held regarding this.
• Patty Foley asked if she could interview her for NCTV.
• Cathy Miket-Piombo stated that Italian Gourmet provided a $25 gift card for the photo guessing contest.
• Chair Francolino will be sending a schedule to the committee.

5. 150 Club
• Tabled until 2020.
• Chair Francolino reached out to Stew Leonard’s asking if we could use the equipment they have for a selfie mosaic. Will still need to pay for a set-up fee.
• Cathy Miket-Piombo asked if anyone is keeping track of company’s that we are asking for donations from. Beth Manke-Hutvagner stated that she will create a spreadsheet of donations, etc.

6. T-Shirts—pick a logo, marketing strategy
• Discussed earlier.

7. Can/ bottle collection
• Beth Manke-Hutvagner stated that Kathy Sullivan went to pick them up and they were just thrown into bags and not cleaned.
• A discussion was held regarding this and it was decided that we will not pursue this.
• Susan Gibbon suggested that we have our own can and bottle drive.
• Beth Manke-Hutvagner stated that she will discuss this with her father and brother and have them take the lead on it. Possibly have the scouts work at for us.

8. Poster/Calendar
• A discussion was held regarding this.
• Cathy Clark suggested that we hold a contest for the photos to be included in the poster/calendar.
• Susan Gibbon, Cathy Clark, Anna Kubish and Diane Durant will be part of the sub-committee.
• Beth Manke-Hutvagner suggested getting a magnet made with the events as well.

9. Bowl-a-thon
• Michael Fox stated that he spoke with an aid to the Superintendent and she stated that having his during a school day is a no go. He and Tom have alternate ideas to discuss with the superintendent.

10. Comedy Night - set a date
• Cathy Miket-Piombo stated that she spoke with the Sphinx and that the dates we were looking at are booked. We could go to May 2nd. It would cost $271 to rent; $500 for the talent and have it be BYOB. Can sell water, sodas, t-shirts, etc. Looking to have (2) $500 sponsors.
• Beth Manke Hutvagner asked if Gregorio’s would be willing to make pizza for us to sell.

B. Events
1. Drone Picture
• Chair Francolino stated that the date for the drone picture will the Thursday, August 8th and that she spoke with Scott Greczkowski and he will take the picture with his drone. Eileen suggested we do it on the soccer fields and having the photo taken at 5:30.
• A discussion was held regarding how big the number should be, etc.

C. Miscellaneous
1. NCTV Tapes
• Patty Foley stated that the tapes are in the works. She also stated that we can hold a fundraiser at the library regarding the tapes and the library will also have events highlighting Newington’s 150th anniversary.

2. Statues
• Susan Gibbon stated that she has sent an email to someone at Cow Parade. The cost for large cows is $3,000 and the cost for smaller cows is $750. Tabled until next meeting.
• Cathy Clark suggested having an exploratory committee asking if businesses are interested in doing this. Eileen Francolino will ask the Chamber of Commerce about this.
• A discussion was held; tabled until next meeting.
• Dennis Morgan stated that he had information on the history piece. He met with Gail and Jim at the Historical Society and went through their resources. They have boxes and boxes of photographs. Spoke with an associate professor regarding publishing with Arcadia; not a lot of profit [for a book on Newington], but doable.

• Eileen Francolino stated that Tom Tallard suggested having a Polar Plunge. Spoke with Bill DeMaio and he stated that it would be a health risk to have it at Mill Pond. Tom suggested having it at Hammonasset Beach. A discussion was held regarding this.

• Robert Blank suggested having a family picnic, similar to an old-fashioned barn-raising, at Deming Young Farm. Have it in May, before Memorial Day. Have games, etc. that are period to the time.

• A discussion was held regarding the parking.

• Robert to look into this. Tabled until next meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Chamber of Commerce calendar postings

• Chair Francolino stated that as soon as we gets dates confirmed we will post them on the calendar. We want to get our fundraisers for 2020 on there ASAP.

B. 150 Acts of Kindness—does someone want to take charge

• Chair Francolino asked if anyone wanted to take charge of this. Maybe hang something on the fence at Clem Lemire.

• Cathy Clark suggested having a thermometer on the town green, and place hearts around it.

• A discussion was held regarding this as to when to have this, etc. Tabled until next meeting.

• Dennis Morgan stated that he would like to make a motion, but prior to that, provide some background behind it. He stated that Newington is 23% non-White (including 10% Hispanic, 6% Asian, 5% black), 18.5% foreign-born (Mainly from India, Jamaican and Mexican), about 6% speak only Spanish, 5% only Polish and 2.5% only Portuguese. He stated that he would like to form a diversity committee so that the other 23% can participate.

• Susan Gibbon stated that the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee was formed by the Town Council. Not sure that we can add members.

• Dennis Morgan stated that this committee was formed by the Council, we can create subcommittees.

• A lengthy discussion was held regarding this motion. Motion failed to pass.

• Dennis Morgan stated that he would like to announce that he is resigning from this committee.

• Chair Francolino asked why he would say that.

• Dennis Morgan stated that he thinks it is unconscionable to not embrace the concept of diversity.

• Chair Francolino stated that she doesn’t think we are not embracing the concept of diversity.

• Beth Manke Hutvagner stated that the goal of this committee is to celebrate this town and where we have come from the past 150 years and all of the events embrace all that we are in town. I personally think that in our planning we plan to include everyone in town to share their story and how they came to Newington. Be it from another town, be it that their family was born and bred here; be it from another country and share how they are
and how they contribute to the greater being of the town. Don’t know that anybody has ideas of excluding. I think our ideas are to include everybody’s personal story and background.

- **A further lengthy discussion was held regarding this.**
- James Krupienski stated that the committee has the authority to create a subcommittee for events, that is your goal. That is what was approved by the Council. I’m not saying that diversity is not a good thing. We do have an open spot and we can address that with the Council and we can address that with the Mayor and see what they can get out to their constituents. But the committees specific duties in creating its own subcommittees are for creating events to be held for the 150th. That is the only goal that is part of that.
- Dennis Morgan stated that he would like to make a motion to form a subcommittee to develop an event that celebrates diversity.
- Beth Manke Hutvagner stated that she seconds that motion.
- Cathy Miket-Piombo states that she thirds that motion. That makes more sense.
- Chair Francolino stated that from the very beginning, when we started, we said if a person wants to hold an event, they will chair it and be in charge of it all. I think every event we have will celebrate diversity. I hope every event we have celebrates diversity. I hope that people from all walks of life in town come to our events. I am not sure how we market it any better than what we do. Put it on Facebook, put it in the paper, I don’t know how to get around it any more than that, I don’t know how you market it any better than that. So, we can have a motion to have an event that celebrates diversity, but unless someone wants to chair that event, that event is not going to happen. So, we need someone who is willing to be in charge before all of this happens.
- Dennis Morgan stated and who should that be? Should it be some white liberal like me or should it be a person that is part of the diverse community?
- **A further lengthy discussion was held regarding this.**

VIII. Public Participation

- None

IX. Remarks

- None

X. Adjournment

The next 150th Anniversary Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Susan Gibbon; seconded by Michael Fox. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Secretary ~ 150th Anniversary Steering Committee