

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT

2023 AUG 29 PM 1:27

AGENDA ITEM: 6.A

DATE: 8/22/2023

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-124

RESOLVED:

Peter J. Murphy
Town Clerk

Motion to accept the final report of the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee and disband this committee with the Council's thanks.

MOTION BY: Councilor Manke

SECONDED BY: Councilor Radda

VOTE: 8-0 (Councilor Camillo not in room)

To: James Krupienski
From: Eileen Francolino
Re: 150th Anniversary Committee Final Report

The 150th Anniversary Committee has had a long run. It has been difficult at times but we made the best of a rough situation.

We chose to raise money to support the cause in several different ways. We began by selling anniversary t-shirts, commemorative Avery soda, and prints of the Mill Pond waterfall. The prints were copies of an original created by local artist Janice Reynolds. Both the original painting and a gorgeous quilt created by the Schoolhouse Quilters were raffled off. We also sold commemorative pins and holiday ornaments. Our most successful fundraising activity was the creation of a calendar containing art work created by our talented community.

We took on a beautification project in an effort to make our town sparkle at the start of our anniversary year. Working in conjunction with both the Parks and Recreation Department and Stonehedge Landscaping, our committee offered residents the opportunity to obtain free daffodil bulbs. The following season our town was painted yellow.

When our anniversary year finally arrived, we felt the need to pause and remember those where no longer with us to share in our anniversary celebration. COVID hit our community hard and many families were suffering. We decorated the falls with luminaries and posters. Residents were encouraged to stop and visit the memorial as the church bells rang in remembrance.

Some of the activities our committee sponsored included Explore Newington which was a scavenger hunt aimed at teaching participants something unique about our town. Do you know who the island in the center of Mill pond is named after? Nels Nelson! Prizes were offered thanks to Mortensen Ice Cream.

Another activity that brought the town together was the history walk. This was both educational and fun for people of all ages. Residents had the opportunity to learn a little history and enjoy time spent with their neighbors.

Yet another unique event the committee sponsored was a townwide tag sale. We worked with the Greater Hartford Women's Association. Participants registered their addresses and a long list was created. Everyone had the chance to visit as many spots as they wanted.

We also put together a family centered event by sponsoring Christmas in June. Families were invited to attend an indoor screening of Elf on a giant blowup screen. They were treated to popcorn, cupcakes, and candy. We appreciate the help of the Parks and Recreation Department who helped set up for this activity.

Despite repeated attempts to hold an anniversary ball, we could not overcome the fears that remained concerning the spread of COVID. As a result, we came up with a different plan to spend the money we raised. They included the following:

- glow sticks, bracelets, and necklaces to the annual Night of Lights celebration;
- \$5000 to Parks and Recreation to be used to plant an oak tree along with a bench by its side. The tree is to be planted in the vicinity of the government center, the Kellogg Eddy House, or by the falls. Any monies left of the \$5000 is to be used to offset fees charged to residents who may find it difficult to pay to participate in Parks and Recreation programs;
- \$5000 for the repair of monuments in the center cemetery marking the burial plots of some of our founding fathers;
- Remaining monies are to be used to help pay for the kiosk to be placed in the town hall.

We hope the town enjoyed and appreciated our efforts to celebrate our town.