

## West Newbury Bicentennial Committee Minutes

Sept. 26, 2017

The meeting opened at 6:10 pm. Since the committee has outgrown the Executive Suite they moved to the First Floor Hearing Room. All members were present, K.C. Swallow by speaker phone, the others in the hearing room. Steve Swallow introduced Cindy Lauter, our newest committee member. She moved to West Newbury from Newburyport a year and a half ago and brings a wealth of experience working on Yankee Homecoming.

The minutes of the Aug. 22, 2017 meeting were accepted as presented.

### Old Business

Greg Garnache contacted his son, Nate Garnache, and a friend, Jim Tinley, about designing a logo for the Bicentennial Celebration. Nate is too busy to take it on right now, although he is interested and will let us know if he has some ideas. Jim is temporarily out of the country but is interested in working on it when he returns. He may be able to stop by at our next meeting with some ideas.

Steve Swallow talked to Greg Hadden at Pentucket Schools about reserving facilities for our events. It turns out that we cannot reserve any school facilities until exactly one year before the event. Greg is our contact for this and we can reach him by calling Pentucket Schools and pressing 3 for facilities. The cost will be \$40/hr/school.

KC Swallow reported on the meeting she and Steve had with the Garden Club. They were very receptive to participating in the celebration and already have ideas for projects and events during the bicentennial year including a garden tour and a float in the Memorial Day Parade. KC and Steve joined the Garden Club.

KC and Steve also reported on the Bicentennial Committee's meeting with the Selectmen on Sept. 18. They wanted an update on our activities to date and, more importantly, they wanted to alert us to the fact that requests for appropriations at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting would have to be submitted to the Finance Committee in Jan/Feb 2018. In order to give a rationale for our request we need to have a good understanding of what our proposed activities will cost and whether we want to fund them outright, charge admission or have fundraisers.

In researching less expensive options for publishing a history of West Newbury, KC discovered that Susan Poore Follansbee and Jane Wallace Wild had already produced a book, "Images of America: West Newbury" which was published in 2011 by Arcadia Publishing. This book is very well done and reinventing the wheel makes no sense. We may be able to update this one by adding more information about West Newbury history prior to 1819 and more recent photos up to our current Bicentennial Celebration – West Newbury Then and Now. This book could be marketed in draft form as early as the February gala with photos from the Celebration added later. Greg Garnache will contact the authors to see if they would be interested in producing a new edition.

Steve mentioned that his contact at the Fenway Box Office, Gennifer Davidson, had suggested a dry run of West Newbury Day at Fenway Park in 2018. The committee raised the question of liability for unsold tickets, which could affect the level of seating we want to purchase.

Judy Gregg provided KC with email addresses for the Head Librarian, Friends of the Library and the Library Trustees as well as the head of the Historic District Commission.

Nicole Francouer has been trying to contact Groveland Fairways about use of their facility for the February gala, but has been playing phone tag. She will keep trying.

## **New Business**

Nicole had prepared a draft calendar which was distributed to the committee so that it could begin work on assigning dates to our signature events. The black tie gala is scheduled for February 23, 2019 and the Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 27, 2019. Steve noted that the time frame for the July events is currently set for Wednesday, July 10 through Sunday, July 14, not a whole week. This is a result of early discussions in the committee about the timeframe and was a compromise. It was decided to expand the signature events to Sunday July 7 – Sunday July 14. The draft calendar for the week includes:

Sunday, July 7 – Opening day. Pancake breakfast followed by a baseball game (old-fashioned, little league, town adult league, parents/kids). March to the baseball game with some hoopla, then have an opening ceremony with a “talking head” before the game starts. Possibly have the arrival of John Cena by helicopter. Page School would be a good venue for both the breakfast and the ball game.

Monday, July 8 – Community Service Project. Contact Mill Pond Committee first, then Open Space and Conservation Committees or Selectmen for ideas.

Tuesday, July 9 – Schoolchildren’s project, “What West Newbury Means to Me”

Wednesday, July 10 – Family Dance Party. Maybe a hoedown with a country band.

Thursday July, 11 – Band Stand Concert and Movie Night

Friday, July 12 – Second Line Band People’s Parade

Saturday, July 13 – Family Field Day, picnic, fireworks and closing ceremonies

Nicole and KC had also drawn up draft “Request for Funding” forms. The committee preferred Nicole’s more comprehensive version but asked that she try to limit it to two pages. It was suggested that we send a copy to Jen Solis, who has requested funds for the Pentucket Art Association’s “Voices of West Newbury” as soon as possible. No other groups have requested funding and it was noted that we need to publicize the Celebration as many people are not aware that it is taking place. We can start with a newspaper article and possibly some banners or signage in town.

## Action Items

### Steve

- Change dates for the Signature Events with the Town to 7/7- 7/14, 2019
- Contact Dan Cena to get in touch with John Cena about the opening ceremony (or other appearance)
- Contact Brian Young about bands for the various music events (Thomas Machine Band, Pentucket Marching Band, Fife and Drum corps)

### Krystelle

- Get a cost estimate for a time capsule project
- Approach school leaders about designing the “What West Newbury Means to Me” project

### KC

- Get figure for current funds available from the Town
- Ask Jen Solis to interview the committee for an article in the Newburyport Daily News about the preparations for the Bicentennial Celebration

### Nicole

- Prepare a “worst-case scenario” budget for committee sponsored events to use in presenting budget requests for the April 2018 Town Meeting
- Get figures for cost of bus to Fenway Park
- Get figures for cost of Groveland Fairways

### Greg

- Contact Jane Wild about a possible reissue of “Images of America: West Newbury”
- Research the feasibility of a Second Line Band parade

### Judy, Cindy, Steve

- Meet with Mill Pond Committee about the feasibility of a service project at Mill Pond
- Review the events from the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1994

Our next meeting will be on Tues., Oct. 24 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The agenda is:

Approval of minutes from last meeting

### Old Business

- Reports on progress on Action Items
- Continue to define a time-line for the celebration events

### New Business

- Begin preparation of appropriation requests with rationale for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.