

Tercentennial Planning Committee

Minutes

September 9, 2015

Attending: Beverley Knudsen, Jeannie Madden, Marge Devine, Jerry Davis, Joel Glass, Mayer Fistal

Staff: Nathan Poore, Melissa Tryon, Ellen Planer, Amy Lamontagne, Lucky D'Ascanio

- 1. Introduction of committee members, staff and Council liaison**
- 2. Elect Chair and Vice Chair**

The committee decided to wait until the full membership was present before selecting leaders. Town staff will lead meetings until then.

- 3. Review Town Council charge for the Committee**

- 4. Discussion to identify key areas of interest that should be considered as part of the celebration**

The committee held a lengthy discussion about ideas for the tercentennial year. The attached matrix lists all the ideas raised.

- 5. Discussion about resources that will be necessary to carry out the desired outcomes of the celebration**

Nathan said the Town will need both professional help and volunteers. He recommended bringing in an event planner to facilitate good communications with residents, including social media. He said the options were to hire someone full time or contract with a professional. A fundraising campaign doesn't seem like a good idea with the library effort, land trust efforts, and the historical society and other groups all raising money. Perhaps they could do a couple low key asks for money. The committee discussed using town funds for the effort, but also wanted to be mindful of the tax burden on residents.

6. Develop agenda for next meeting

Staff will draft a matrix of ideas from this meeting. At they next meeting the committee will create next steps, do outreach planning, and elect a chair and vice-chair.

7. Develop schedule for future meetings

The committee agreed to hold meetings on Wednesdays at 11am, once a month at least. The next meeting was scheduled for October 7.

8. Other business

9. Adjourn

Notes prepared by:
Melissa Tryon

Tercentennial Celebration - Idea Matrix

September 9, 2015

Educational Ideas

Documentaries	Broadcast on cable channel, you tube, at library, in park. Topic ideas: schools, first church, grist mills and their wheels, river before the dams.
Intellectual/academic events	1921 baseball game at Town Hall – re-enactment? Talks from life-long residents about growing up in Falmouth.
Publications	Write up on first things: high school, church, town hall, first soldiers killed. Historical booklet with articles and pictures – update the one done for the 275 th ? Series in the Forecaster over the year.
School	Falmouth History Club restarted? Make part of school curriculum. Sophomore class is class of 2018. Interview elderly residents of town (Florence McCann).
Histories	Falmouth as original town (others broke off). Baseball in Falmouth, town departments (public works), local and state political leaders, trails, trolley system, intraurban rail, finance, specific properties/open space (Bob Shafto, Maine Historical Preservation), specific neighborhoods. Business histories (Southworth, Skillins), immigrations of different ethnic groups (Scandinavians in 18 th century), cemeteries – stories behind the gravestones. “Bad” moments in history – slavery, witches in Hurricane Valley
Studies	Geography of being between the river and the sea
Churches	Histories of the local churches

Networking Ideas

Groups	Invite reps from groups listed in the charge to a meeting to hear their thoughts. Use group list generated by Facilities cmte.
Individuals	Liaison from school – important to get kids involved.
Falmouth, Cornwall, England	Exchange program; Community Programs trip. (Jeanne contacted the library there a few years ago.)
Residents	Stakeholders meeting (similar to senior cmte); contact the historical Falmouth families – town wide mailing reaching out for family histories.

Timing/Duration

When to kick this off?	
Will it last the whole year?	Phippsburg used an entire year, with civic groups focusing on one month each (pancake breakfasts). Gala at the end?

Promotion/Branding

Town Seal	Can this be changed? Charter revision required? Contest for a new town seal, or hire a professional?
Banners	Street banners designed by contest winners. School classes taking turns designing street banners. Well done interior/lobby banners. Magnets to residents.
Celebration Logo	Contest for logo design.
Signs	Something at entrances to Town announcing anniversary – wayfinding signs. Any other towns having tercentennials coming up that might impact ours?

Event Ideas

Fireworks, something on water, boat parade, community photo, time capsule (is there one that needs to be opened?) parade, movies in park, baseball game, carnival, build on established events (library Sunday in July, memorial day parade), mint a coin, street fair, food festival, drones, hot air balloons (tethered), vintage events (sack races, vintage baseball game), running/hiking/trail running/mountain biking events, skiing (recreate the ski slope on Hurricane mountain?), recreate underwood springs amphitheater, commission an original play/community theater production (school?), Bob Marley show, Guinness record, Golf courses – golf-a-thon, fire department muster, cemetery tours – Halloween.
