

Tercentennial Committee Meeting

December 15, 2016

Attendees

Committee members: Carol Kauffman, Candice Powers, Maria Kuhn, Ellen Snyder, Marge Devine, Jeannie Madden

Staff: Erin Cadigan, Nathan Poore

Council Liaison: Caleb Hemphill

1. Approval of minutes from November meeting

Approval of the minutes was postponed until our January meeting.

2. Discussion and selection of dates for Tercentennial events

Erin presented a proposed calendar of events based on conversations she had with Nathan as well as input gathered over the past year via committee meetings and our brainstorming sessions. The first item on the list was the Volunteer Fair where we can continue to recruit volunteers for our upcoming events. Some committee members thought November was not a good time to hold it and discussed moving it to October. Erin said she would consult with participating organizations for the best date.

The committee discussed holding the 300th Kick-Off as part of Very Merry in 2017. Consideration must be given to committee members who are committed to church fairs the same day. The Committee discussed adding fireworks as part of the event and which night would be better. It was important that events not compete against sporting events such as a hockey game; however we could draw a significant audience from a athletic event if we timed the fireworks accordingly. Maria and Candice will contact Falmouth Athletic Director to see about the scheduling of a hockey game to coincide with a fireworks show. Other ideas suggested included a commemorative puck drop and handing out commemorative pucks with the 300 logo on it. Discussion ensued regarding where to have the fireworks. Nathan suggested Tide Water area. Erin will work with fireworks specialists to find venue.

Nathan proposed a gingerbread decorating contest with 300 entries and a theme of the 300th. It is important to collaborate with the Chamber on changes to this event.

The Committee agreed we should have a table or display at every appropriate upcoming town event, perhaps even at the Farmer's Market in the summer. We should have a professional display—Steve Wood does professional exhibition displays. Erin will look into this. Ellen suggested that we are describing a “Ready, Set, Go” strategy. Our appearance at events through the spring and summer of 2017 is Get Ready, our launch at Very Merry is Get Set, and then when we hit January with Go!

Regarding a January event the Committee discussed holding a community day of service with churches taking lead in organizing a community day of volunteerism. Nathan called this a “Day On” rather than a day off from school or work. Erin and Nathan will create an all-churches conference meeting to discuss this idea. Cathy Breen and Theresa Pierce would be helpful in this endeavor.

There is interest in holding an April economic development event similar to Very Merry. Nathan suggested we leave this event up to the Chamber. The Town will provide some staff support.

Ellen suggested some kind of fundraising drive that would involve the elementary students to raise 300 dimes or something small for a local charity. It could start in February—theme it “have a heart”. Ellen suggested the high school students lead the charge.

Falmouth has an all class reunion which meets the first or second week of August and is fairly well attended. They hold it at the golf course in Gray and it is a day time event (11-2pm). Probably 150 attend. David Gagnon organizes it. Nathan suggested we reach out to David Gagnon to see about enlarging this event, injecting some money into it to draw a broader audience. We could add a family component to it.

The Committee held a long discussion regarding holding Old Home Days event on Memorial Day weekend. While some committee members felt the summer would be better so families could return to Falmouth to participate, others felt that holding a large event outside the school year would lose participation by school families. The Class of 2018 would not be as likely to participate; school musical groups would not perform and it would be hard to recruit parents as volunteers. The Memorial Day parade is fairly well attended and it seems that many people do remain in Falmouth over the holiday. It also would not conflict with graduations. The Committee agreed this date would work.

Erin will rework the plan based on discussion today. She will consider organizational structure as well. Ideally sub-committees will plan these events with a member of the larger committee serving as chair of each sub-committee. Erin will work to refine this plan and bring it back to the committee for the next meeting.

3. Other Business

4. Next Meeting Date

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 5 at 3pm.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm