

## **375 Anniversary Celebration Committee**

### **August 9, 2017 ~ Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Mike Costello, Jake Kramer, Laura Schwall, Ken Abrams, Cynthia Lee, Kim Fagundes, Jean Grota, Kathy Conti, Joe Nunes, Neal Harrington, Connie Wenzel-Jordan

**Guests:** Maureen Whittemore speaking on Rehoboth Cultural Council grants, Doug Kelley speaking on parade organization, Katherine Cooper, Chairman of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School Committee.

Meeting came to order at 7:10 pm.

**July Minutes:** Motion to approve by Jake Kramer, seconded by Joe Nunes, approved unanimously with amendments (minor corrections).

**Parade Discussion:** Doug Kelley, Dean of Student Activities and Athletics at DRRHS was introduced along with Katherine Cooper, Chairman of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School Committee. He reported that both the school committee and Anthony Azar, School District Superintendent have given Kelley permission to assist the 375 committee with parade organization. Both he and Jean Grota will act as co-chairs of the parade sub-committee. Mike Costello gave an overview of his vision for next year's parade and suggested a fundraising goal of \$100K to fund a spectacular parade. Doug emphasized that bands must be sent invitations to participate as soon as possible. He and Grota both noted that bands must be paid to participate with payment at the conclusion of the parade. Participating bands will be required to sign an agreement. There was some discussion of parade route. Doug suggested staging the parade on Route 44 from New Street to Williams Street. The parade could begin at Williams Street continuing westward on Route 44 to the Redway Plain. It was suggested that bleachers be rented for the event. A grand marshal should be picked soon. The 350 parade had eleven divisions consisting of bands, floats and other participants. Connie Wenzel-Jordan will develop invitations to be sent out along with a participant agreement form. Doug and Jean will develop a database of potential band participants. Members voted unanimously to have the parade on Sunday, October 7, 2018, rain or shine.

**Cultural Council Grants:** Maureen Whittemore (immediate past chair of RCC) spoke to the group about the upcoming grant cycle with a submission deadline of October 16. She provided a handout on the process of applying for grants.

**Letters of Invitation to MA and RI Governors:** There was some discussion on sending letters to both governors inviting them to be distinguished guests in the 375 parade. Connie W-J will work on letter format and presentation to governors as well as letters to officials in "Take Back Rehoboth" campaign towns and cities.

**Progress Reports:** Members reviewed progress report on events, fundraising, marketing, administrative functions, and sub-com progress. A sign-up sheet was passed about for those who can volunteer to staff the 375 booth at the Harvest Block Party. Mike Costello reviewed the donations already received coming by mail or through Paypal. Laura Schwall mentioned that

donations made by Paypal take a percentage of the total donation. We should encourage donors to mail checks if they want their whole donation to reach the committee.

**Tee shirts:** Ken Abrams updated the committee on ordering tee-shirts to sell at the Harvest Block Party on September 16. Some discussion on tee-shirt design and colors. The design will be full-color (Melissa Treichler's design) screen printed on a "natural" color shirt. Ken hopes to have a sample for the next meeting, utilizing a local vendor.

**Banner:** Jake Kramer is working with Fast Signs to order a 3 x 30 banner to place over Route 44 near the Redway Plain. The cost is over \$700 and he is donating the sign.

**Vendor User Fee:** One way the committee can raise money is charging a user fee to vendors who wish to sell 375 commemorative items. Connie will work on a sample agreement which will be reviewed by town legal counsel.

**Accounting:** Cheryl Gouveia will handle all accounting. We should use the town's tax exempt status when making purchases. Mike will work with Cheryl on purchase orders. Laura will look into a permit for sending bulk mail.

**Event Updates:** Ken Abrams reported the details for the 375 Golf Tournament fundraiser are coming along. He said the local golf courses are willing to participate in the multi-course tournament, tentatively set for last next August or early September. The 375 Ball fundraiser is tentatively set for early next winter with New Year's Eve as a possible date. The Ball sub-com consist of Laura Schwall, Jean Grota, Cheryl Gouveia, Kathy Conti, and Kim Fagundes. The first Spaghetti Supper fundraising is being organized by Jake Kramer and Kim Fagundes on October 5 at the American Legion. There is a \$75 fee to rent the facility. Jake is already selling tickets. Boot Drive Donation Collection is being organized by Jean Grota. The date is Saturday, September 23 from 8 AM to 12 Noon at the intersections of Route 44 and 118, and also Fairview and Tremont Street. Mike Costello said he would take care of police detail/approval. There was some discussion on signage for the event, and asking Cathy Potter to recruit costume wearing members of the Rehoboth Minutemen.

**Park Commission:** Mike Costello suggested asking the Park Commission to waive their usual fees to use the Redway Plain (and other public properties as necessary) for the anniversary year, January to December 2018. Kim Fagundes suggested sending a request to The Home Depot for a donation to build stage on the Redway Plain.

**Update on time capsule:** Suzanne Withers did research on the location of the 325 time capsule. Apparently there was only a burial of razors from the Brothers of the Bush somewhere on the grounds of the Highway Department. Committee decided it was too early to dig up the 350th time capsule. But it was agreed to have one for the 375 with details to be determined.

**Sponsor banners:** Laura Schwall passed out marketing material for sponsorship banners, the type to be used outdoors in various places around town.

**Adjourned: 9:20 PM. Next meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2017**

Respectfully submitted by Connie Wenzel-Jordan

