



375th Anniversary Celebration Committee
August 22, 2018 ~ Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman – Mike Costello, Vice Chairperson – Connie Wenzel-Jordan, Sandy Phillips, Neal Harrington, Nancy Muri, Laura Schwall, Kim Fagundes, Cynthia Lee, Jean Grotta, Ken Abrams, Jake Kramer, Sheila Kramer, Abby Abrahamson, Joe Nunes, Gerry Schwall, Cheryl Gouveia, Jen LeComte, Dave LeComte, Jan McMurry

Guests: Chip Ventura, Odette LaCourse

Meeting came to order at 7:17 PM

Motion: Cheryl Gouveia made the motion to accept minutes – seconded by Sandy Phillips – approved unanimously – at 7:17 PM

Golf Tournament

Joe Nunes and Ken Abrams gave an update on the golf tournament. Joe Nunes said that he and Mr. Abrams met again this week to go over details. Two teams need to be refunded, as they can no longer play in the tournament. On the day of the event, Sandy Phillips will hand out glasses, Kim Fagundes will welcome and sign-in participants, Kathy Conti will sell mulligans, Gerry Schwall will oversee the putting contest, Dave and Jen LeComte will oversee the hole-in-one contest.

The Sub-Committee needs a final headcount of people attending the post-tournament dinner so that Crestwood Country Club knows how many meals to make. They are encouraging all the event volunteers to have dinner at Crestwood. They are also inviting any community members that are interested to attend the dinner portion of the event. The Sub-Committee currently has about 30 raffle items. Joe Nunes will visit several Attleboro Restaurants to inquire about additional gifts/donations for the raffle.

So far, there are about 14 foursomes registered for the event. Mike Costello said that 18 foursomes is a good number for a tournament. The Sub-Committee is aiming to welcome 4 more teams to the event in order to reach that number. So far, there is one individual registered to play. Ken Abrams is looking to register a few teams from Dunkin' Donuts.

Courses and meals at Crestwood are all set. Mr. Nunes added that supplies such as plywood and 2x4 boards are all set. Mr. Abrams received a phone call from Bristol Toyota today; they extended the insurance and contract for the September date. Mr. Nunes said that everything is in good shape, we

just need good weather on the day of the event. He added that Dixon Golf agreed to come on the new event date (September 10th).

Laura Schwall complimented the Sub-Committee on the tee sign plaques for sponsors of the event. She also welcomed Odette LaCourse, who is the event coordinator at Francis Farm. Mrs. Schwall asked the 375th Committee to offer their apologies to Odette for cancelling the Golf Tournament dinner at Francis Farm without notice, and to thank Odette for her outstanding help with past 375th events at Francis Farm, such as the Taste of Rehoboth and Clambake.

Ken Abrams explained the reasoning why Francis Farm hadn't been made aware of the cancellation in a timely manner.

Jean Grotta apologized to Ms. LaCourse, and said that, as a fellow business owner, she understands that Francis Farm should have been notified about the cancellation by the Committee and shouldn't have had to reach out to us. Jen LeComte, Cheryl Gouveia, and Sandy Phillips also expressed their apologies. Sandy Phillips added that she hopes things will be better in the future.

Mike Costello expressed his apologies to Ms. LaCourse and said that, as Chairman of the 375th Committee, he should have been the one to notify her of the cancellation. He explained that the decision to cancel was made because we were struggling to gain enough turnout for the event, and a much larger number of participants had been expected when the original agreement with Francis Farm was made. He thanked Ms. LaCourse for the wonderful events that she has helped coordinate for the 375th in the past, and added that he will call Ken Foley to apologize as well.

Ms. LaCourse said that a simple phone call at least a week prior would have been appropriate. Gerry Schwall said that it appears that, unfortunately, there was little communication between the Committee and Francis Farm.

Harvest Block Party

Kim Fagundes said everything for the Block Party is all set. Connie Wenzel-Jordan added that the Grown in Rehoboth contest will be tied into the Block Party. The purpose of the contest is to represent Rehoboth pride, and to build interest in the Block Party and Time Capsule. Participants will receive a free certificate and take a picture that will be added to the 375th website and Time Capsule. The contest will honor anything grown in Rehoboth, from family to veggies to weeds. Connie Wenzel-Jordan will take the pictures and the DJ will announce the certificates. Everyone is a winner in the contest. The event, like the "We Love Rehoboth" event in February, will also help balance other 375th events that required tickets or had some cost associated with them.

Painting Party

Connie Wenzel-Jordan said that the Painting Party is a while away; it won't take place until November.

Joe Nunes asked about the Rehoboth Minutemen Timeline Encampment. Connie Wenzel-Jordan said that the Minutemen are planning and getting ready for the event. She also said that the reenactment will be a great opportunity, as it doesn't happen very often.

PARADE

Cheryl Gouveia gave an update on the parade finances. We have \$39,378.45 towards our repayment of \$50,000 to the town. We need to raise about \$10,000 - \$11,000 more. Mike Costello said that with the revenue from the Golf Tournament, we will be even closer to paying back the \$50,000.

Jean Grota gave an update on the progress of the parade. She said that the Sub-Committee has been super busy this week. About 300 letters are being sent to residents along the parade route. The letters include a resident pass so that those along the parade route (including side streets) can access Route 44. It is a one-time pass and can only be used until 11:00 AM.

At 9:00 AM, Wilmarth Bridge Rd. and Danforth St. will be closed for staging. At 10:00 AM, Danforth St. to New St. will be closed. A map showing where the closings are a 9:00 and 10:00 will be included in the resident letters. (A different map will be included in the Rehoboth Reporter.)

Half of Redway Plain will be sectioned off for parking, the other half will be used for staging. Beckwith Middle School and Palmer River Elementary will also be used for parking. Mike Costello is in contact with the State Health Department and Jean Grota is in contact with the Rehoboth Board of Health about septic systems at/near designated parking areas. Jean Grota also said that we need to know all the counts for parking spaces. Attendees with VIP seating will get preferred parking. Volunteers will be needed to collect tickets for the preferred parking area.

Mrs. Grota will start making sign-up forms for volunteer opportunities. We will need additional volunteers beyond the 375th Committee. There will be first aid at locations such as Palmer River Elementary School. Port-A-Potties will be at Redway Plain, Dunkin' Donuts, and Palmer River. People with a handicap plate will not be turned down. She also said that appropriate times for arrival will be published in the Rehoboth Reporter. Residents will need to arrive before the roads are shut down. The Committee will need to arrive at about 8:00 AM. Neal Harrington said that, for the 350th Parade, people needed to arrive at 8:00 as well. Mike Costello said that 10:00 AM will be the cutoff time for those who need to get to the school. All roads will be cut off at 11:00 AM.

Jean Grota said that once the Sub-Committee knows how many tickets have been sold, they will be able to plan parking accordingly. The public safety departments have everything planned for emergency services, etc. The entrance to Bristol County Savings Bank will be blocked off after business hours on Saturday. Laura Schwall said that we will need to strategize how to handle the handicap situation. Jean Grota said that some people might need to bring their own chairs. There will be handicap bathrooms at Redway Plain and Beckwith Middle School.

Jean Grota said that she will email a map to the Committee, and she will also have printed copies of the map at her office. Participants will arrive from the east and will stop at KP Diner. They will be checked off there and will find out where their staging area is. Participants will then check in at the Veterans Memorial gazebo, where the sign-in form will be located. Cheryl Gouveia will be at the gazebo to hand out checks, and participants will sign a receipt for their checks with her.

We will need about 80 signs for all each float and vehicle on the parade route. Jean Grota said that the signs will need to be about 11x17 in. and secured on a stake. Since the Sub-Committee knows the dimensions of each float, we know how much space will need to be allotted. In addition, Sandy Phillips is working on securing banners (about a dozen will be needed). Jean Grota suggested that Sandy Phillips

work with Mike Costello on this, since he knows someone in town who makes banners. Mike Costello said that the cost would be about \$127 each for vinyl banners. Additionally, Mike Costello received permission to use Cedar Brook School for the parade. The use of the school isn't listed on the map for residents, but it will be on the map for participants.

Jean Grota announced that the Sub-Committee received a \$400 grant from the Rehoboth Cultural Council to be used specifically for signs and banners. She will submit another application for a Cultural Council grant since the application cycle just started again.

Mike Costello will meet with the Mass DOT tomorrow. The DOT needs more details on the map, such as barrels, signs, closures, detours, etc. He also contacted the Swansea and Seekonk Highway Departments to ask about borrowing some of their stockpile barrels for the parade.

Joe Nunes asked about detour routes during the parade. Mike Costello said that people can come from Route 118 to Bay State Rd. to get to Redway Plain, and then exit down Pond St. and Wilmarth Bridge Rd. Jean Grota added that the parade will start at 12:00 and will end around 2-3:00.

The Sub-Committee received several new applications this week from the Seekonk Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator, MA State Police, the Swansea Honor Guard, Rehoboth Garden Club, Little Miss MA, and the DCR Park Rangers. An application was also received for bagpipes and Seekonk's antique fire engine. Providence is also sending an honor guard, and Attleboro is sending their municipal council and honor guard.

Kim Fagundes is working on organizing the event vendors. Local businesses such as Palagi will be selling food at the event.

Jean Grota asked the Committee whether bagpipes are a wanted addition to the parade and whether we have the funds to recruit them. Cheryl Gouveia made a motion that we approve the bagpipers application to participate in the parade for \$1,200. Sandy Phillips seconded, all in favor.

Jean Grota met with Bill Cute, who the Sub-Committee voted to be Master of Ceremonies for the parade. In addition, Rev. Sarah Weaver from the Rehoboth Congregational Church will do the blessing of the parade. PA systems will be provided by the Singing State Trooper. Jean Grota reviewed the schedule for the opening ceremonies.

Gerry Schwall said that the Board of Selectmen voted to add money to the Highway Department line item for expenses related to the parade. He said that a good amount was allocated for portable bathrooms. Unlike the \$50,000 from the town, these funds do not need to be repaid. Jean Grota said that we need to figure out the placement of bathrooms. Mike Costello said that \$1,500 is the cost of the port-a-potties. He will email the vendor tomorrow to confirm the order, and they will arrive on Saturday.

Mrs. Grota also addressed the "bucket brigade" fundraiser, which will be like a boot drive. Volunteers are needed to lead and organize the bucket brigade. She also asked everyone to look over the Smartsheets that were distributed in their free time and welcomes any suggestions. As of today, the parade is 46 days away.

The Sub-Committee received an email today from Austin Rickets from Double ACS Television in Attleboro, who would like to interview a 375th member. Jean suggested asking Doug Kelley to do this, and will reach out to him about doing so.

Keep Rehoboth Beautiful is organizing a pre-parade cleanup that will take place on September 30th from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The cleanup will take place along a 2.6 mile stretch on Route 44. Abby Abrahamson asked Committee members to contact her if they are interested in volunteering for the cleanup.

Connie Wenzel-Jordan designed posters for the parade that will be posted around town 3 weeks before the parade. She added that the posters are digital and can be shared online. Jen LeComte mentioned that the last meeting minutes stated that Connie-Wenzel Jordan would start spotlighting the parade participants on August 14th. Jean Grota said that the posts will be pushed to a later date, after the Golf Tournament takes place.

Jake Kramer and Mike Costello attended an Attleboro City Council meeting to symbolically “take back the town.” Mike Costello said that Jake Kramer did an excellent job representing Rehoboth as town crier, and that Attleboro is in full support of the parade. They will also be visiting other towns that were once a part of Rehoboth to “take back the town.” Jake Kramer added that he and Mike Costello won’t be able to attend the next Committee meeting. They will be attending a meeting in Seekonk for another ceremonial “take back the town” event.

Jean Grota will check on the Attleboro High School and Seekonk High School Marching bands’ participation on the parade. Marching bands from bordering towns that were once a part of Rehoboth such as Mount Hope and Somerset Berkeley will be attending NESBA, which will conflict with their ability to participate in the parade.

Cynthia Lee gave an update on the 350th Parade viewing party at Horton Estates. The event will take place on September 11th at 6:30 PM. She will need a headcount by September 6th. There will be a movie and dinner. Kim Fagundes will be coordinating food for the event.

Jean Grota said that it will be impossible to volunteer for the event and physically be in the parade at the same time. We will need to reach out to a core group of people who have experience volunteering in parades. She asked if volunteers would need to join the Committee to help; Mike Costello suggested contacting Helen Dennen.

Cynthia Lee addressed shirts for the parade. She suggested using a bib design that she found online, since weather on the day of the event will need to be a consideration when ordering shirts. The Committee needs to decide whether we want to order t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, or “Parade Staff” vests/bibs. Jean Grota received shirt options from Graphic Ink, as well ask pricing on various shirts and hoodies. She will share this information at the next meeting. She suggested that members order their own shirts. For instance, Committee members would pick their preferred style of shirt and the 375th will decide on the logo, text, and color of the shirt. Mike Costello added that the shirts should be fluorescent green. To use that color, Jean Grota added that we would only be able to order t-shirts. Joe Nunes said that if the event staff is wearing a bright color, perhaps we should wear a certain color of shirt that says “375th Committee member.” Mike Costello said that the vest/bib is also a good option. Cheryl Gouveia

asked to table the topic until the next meeting. Neal Harrington will also bring 2 shirts from the 350th Anniversary Celebration to share with the Committee.

Motion to Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Cheryl Gouveia made the motion to adjourn the Wednesday, August 22, 2018 375th Anniversary Celebration Committee meeting. Jen LeComte seconded and the committee unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Abby J. Abrahamson

Meeting Minutes Approved (date and time): Date: 9/5/18 Time: 7:05

Signature of 375th Anniversary Celebration Committee Chairman
after minutes have been approved:


Michael R. Costello - Chairman