



375th Anniversary Celebration Committee
October 24, 2018 ~ Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman – Mike Costello, Vice Chairperson – Connie Wenzel-Jordan, Abby Abrahamson, Jann McMurry, Sheila Kramer, Kim Fagundes, Anna Deignan, Laura Schwall, Ken Abrams, Jen LeComte, Dave LeComte, Kevin Hebert, Jeff Greenberg, Wendy Wolfe-Cardarelli, Nancy Muri, Joe Nunes, Cheryl Gouveia

Guests: Michael Deignan

Meeting came to order at 7:27 PM

Motion: Cheryl Gouveia made the motion to accept minutes – seconded by Ken Abrams – approved unanimously – at 7:28 PM

Parade

Mike Costello said that the parade was a great success! There were only a couple of hiccups. We thought more people would come, but everyone who did come thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Everyone who participated had a great time as well.

Derek Rousseau is currently working to finish the 375th Parade DVD so that it can be broadcasted on Channel 9.

Cheryl Gouveia reported that we have collected \$49,676.45 and spent \$58,937.74. We will need to raise \$9,261.29.

Mike Costello suggested selling the 375th Parade DVD as a fundraiser. He also discussed the possibility of holding another golf tournament with Ken Abrams and Joe Nunes. Joe Nunes advised that we hold a golf tournament in May or early June so that it is scheduled before other local organizations hold tournaments. With 18 foursomes, we could raise a great amount of the money we need to fundraise. Joe Nunes suggested possibly holding a golf tournament at a different country club and on a weekend.

Cheryl Gouveia inquired about holding another Taste of Rehoboth. Kim Fagundes mentioned that since we have a lot of farmers in town, we should consider having the event a couple of months

later so that they can attend with their harvested products. Dave LeComte added that this might lead into vacation season.

Kim Fagundes asked whether the Committee will be planning any other events for 2018, such as a New Year's Eve party. Joe Nunes had suggested a 50's dance at a previous meeting. Mr. Nunes added that the 375th Anniversary golf tournament had brought in the amount that it did because prices were lowered for the anniversary celebration. Jean Grota proposed organizing a motorcycle run, since it would render quick, easy money. The last one she organized had raised \$6,000.

Mike Costello said that, instead of attending Town Meeting in May, we could attend the Special Town Meeting next October to address the \$50,000. Gerry Schwall said that there is no deadline to pay back the \$50,000. The Committee's goal was to pay the amount within a year, but a little over a year is alright. If we were to wait until October, the Committee would need to ask the Town Events Committee not to hold any of the events that we plan on doing. In addition, everyone will need to be re-appointed. Mike Costello said that we should hold fundraising events during the times that they would flourish, instead of rushing them. He added that, since he is now on the Board of Selectmen, is unable to be re-appointed as Chair of the 375th Committee for the upcoming year.

Connie Wenzel-Jordan asked how often the Committee would like to meet now that the parade is over. Mike Costello suggested that we meet once a month from now on. Cheryl Gouveia asked that we wait to meet again until after the holidays. Our next Committee meeting will be on January 9th.

Bills to Pay

Cheryl Gouveia made a motion to pay the banner price of \$509.39. Dave LeComte seconded. All in favor.

Jean Grota said that the parade sub-committee was awarded a \$400 grant to pay for banners. Cheryl Gouveia will put this in the account.

Kim's All You Can Eat Dinner

Mike Costello suggested that the Committee should attend Kim's Dinner at the American Legion tomorrow night to support her. It will be an all-you-can-eat event. The cost is \$15.00 per person.

Parade Turnout

Joe Nunes asked if there are any theories as to why the parade had such low turnout. Jean Grota said that a lot of people were afraid to park at the schools with the off chance that they couldn't leave. People were also upset that they couldn't park on Route 44. Kim Fagundes said that some people had wanted the parade to go through the village, as the 325th Anniversary Parade did. Mike Costello said that there were only a select few people on social media spreading negativity about the parade. We had done everything we could to advertise the parade by sending press releases, press packets, posting advertisements, etc.

Gerry Schwall added that a lot has changed over the past 25 years, and there isn't as much civic pride as there was back then, in Rehoboth or anywhere else. The Committee did everything they could, and everyone he has talked to has said that it was a wonderful parade. Jean Grotta expressed her disappointment in the crowd size. However, she said that seeing people smiling and enjoying themselves made it worthwhile. Mike Costello added that there were people dancing in the street with the mummers, and everyone was smiling and enjoying themselves.

Gerry Schwall reported that, luckily, only one person needed to be transported to the hospital during the event. He also met with Michael Hearn and Phillip Travis today. They both said that they had a wonderful time and enjoyed themselves. Mike Costello said that Otis Dyer enjoyed the parade, too. Wendy Wolfe-Cardarelli said that at the COA Bazaar on Saturday, people were still talking about how much they enjoyed dancing at the intersection.

Anna Deignan said that she invited the husband-wife duo that cleans her house to come to the parade. They brought their family and friends and said that it was the most fun that they've ever had together. Jann McMurry said that the kids on the Historical Commission float had a great time throwing candy.

Jen LeCompte asked for suggestions on what to do with her "Happy Birthday Rehoboth" float. Gerry Schwall said that the Board of Selectmen had discussed placing the float outside of the Highway Department.

Laura Schwall said that Derek Rousseau has been working very hard on the DVD of the 375th Parade. He has 15 hours of movie time to upload. He had used several different cameras, so there are multiple angles.

Mike Costello added that the Highway Department crew enjoyed the parade.

Keep Rehoboth Beautiful

Abby Abrahamson gave an update on the Keep Rehoboth Beautiful Sub-Committee. They will soon begin planning a town-wide cleanup that will take place in the spring. The Sub-Committee is also looking forward to launching a "Sponsor-A-Barrel" program, starting a reusable cup program in town, and distributing small trash bags for vehicles to prevent roadside litter.

Time capsule

In the past, Mike Costello had suggested adding drawings made by local kids to the time capsule. Joe Nunes suggested also adding a picture of the Committee, and a DVD of the 375th Parade.

Neal Harrington said that the 350th Celebration Committee had a celebratory dinner at the end of the year.

Ken Abrams said that he has several 9"x12" frames left over from the Golf Tournament. Joe Nunes suggested holding on to them in case we hold another golf tournament.

Mike Costello asked the Committee what material that time capsule should be made of. He has a 55-gallon plastic drum with a twist-on cap that we could use. A suggestion was made to place a Keep Rehoboth Beautiful litter collection barrel sticker on the time capsule. Jean Grota has several binders from the 375th parade and a zip drive that could be thrown in. Residents will be able to fill the barrel at the Highway Department and/or at a 375th Committee meeting. We will also make the location of the burial spot known amongst the Committee. Laura Schwall said that the location of the 350th Anniversary Time Capsule might be in the 350th Committee minutes. Connie Wenzel-Jordan suggested that we bury the the 375th Anniversary Time Capsule by the Veterans Memorial on Redway Plain.

Joe Nunes suggested that we could do a group swearing-in for the upcoming year, if possible.

Laura Schwall suggested that we meet before January 9th for a viewing of the parade video once Derek Rousseau has finished it. She will send an email to the Committee once it is ready.

Connie Wenzel-Jordan is organizing the 375th Painting Party, led by Melissa Treichler, that will take place on November 24th.

Our next Committee meeting will be on January 9th.

Motion to Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Neal Harrington made the motion to adjourn the Wednesday, October 24, 2018 375th Anniversary Celebration Committee meeting. Wendy Wolfe-Cardarelli seconded and the committee unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Abby J. Abrahamson

Meeting Minutes Approved (date and time): Date: 1/8/19 Time: 7:05 PM

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


Michael R. Costello - Chairman
