

## 375<sup>th</sup> Celebration committee Meeting Notes: 9/12/2007

Members present were: Marlene Desjardins, Doug Shipman, Laurel Goodgion, Martin Walsh, Anne Kuckro, Charles Lyle, and Mary Thibeault.

After introductions, Anne summarized the 350<sup>th</sup> celebration that she chaired for the town and how the events were handled. Attempting to plan one event per month, the committee found existing organizations to take on individual events that spanned the entire year.

Doug Shipman of the Historical Society spoke about a planning grant submitted to the Humanities Council. He also shared the initial plans of the Historical Society for the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary including plans for developing an *Arcadia* book on Wethersfield's recent history, and exhibits at Keeney memorial as well as additional satellite exhibits around the town.

Quite a bit of time was involved with discussion of ideas the committee would like to pursue for the 375<sup>th</sup> Celebration. These included:

- Witch of Blackbird Pond map of Wethersfield for the library created by Phil Lohman
- Great Meadows Trust walking tour of the "Witch" book. (Jim Woodward)
- Dedication of Local History Room at the Library.
- Role Playing programs at the Buttolph Williams house.
- Possible groundbreaking of a new addition and entrance to the Webb/Deane/Stevens Museum.
- Involve teachers of Wethersfield history
- "Four Centuries of History" quarterly presentations or tours focusing on a particular portion of Wethersfield's history
  1. January – March: 17<sup>th</sup> Century: Settlement – Cove Warehouse, Buttolph-Williams, *Witch of Blackbird Pond*
  2. April – June: 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Growth & Independence – Webb and Deane houses
  3. July – September: 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Business & Industry – Stevens & Francis houses, Comstock's, Johnson & Robbins (SWRobbins house) Hart Seed, Volunteer Fire Department
  4. October – December: 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Housing Developments, Colonial Revival, environmental concerns, ethnic diversity—Webb & Hurlburt houses, Wintergreen Woods, Nature Center, Great Meadows

- Fireworks from a barge in the cove with band on Showmobile at Cove Park
- Parade
- Cocktail Party
- Canoe or Kayak Tours of River area and the history of Wethersfield and the Connecticut River (Riverfront Recapture)
- Include towns that used to be part of Wethersfield: Rocky Hill, Newington, part of Glastonbury
- Red Onion seeds to school children in spring 2009 for a special judging at the Cornfest in recognition of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Wethersfield's Red Onion history.
- Asking the Chamber to play up the Cornfest for the 375<sup>th</sup>
- Wethersfield Bumper Stickers with a slogan (Chamber)
- New Year's Eve Party

Initial planning for the development of a budget was discussed. Items brought up to be included in the budget were:

- Printing
- Web Site development
- Logo development (Phil Lohman was discussed as a resource for this)
- Revise and publish a self guided walking tour, additionally looking at "cell phone tours" and the tech support required.
- Marketing
- Banner at each end of Wethersfield on the Silas Deane Highway (with permission from the State DOT)
- Parade
- Fireworks

The committee chose to try to contact the following groups to see if they would be interested in being included in the preparations, and if so, would they take on a particular project:

UNICO, Teen Theater, WHS Band, Schools, History Teachers, Fire Department, Riverfront Recapture.

(A sample letter will be sent with these notes for approval from the board members. Please feel free to edit/revise and add to the list of groups to receive this letter inviting them to our October meeting.)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in room F-3 of the Pitkin Community Center (where we met last time)

It is hoped that we will be able to organize, invite other groups and see what their level of interest is, develop a Master Calendar, develop a basic marketing plan, and develop a budget.

The following month's meeting will be Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in room S-2 of the Pitkin Community Center (a bit further down the hall on the same side). We should have a final budget to submit to the Town Manager by the end of this meeting.