

375th Celebration Committee meeting notes: 10/16/2007

Members present: Anne Kuckro, Doug Shipman, Laurel Goodgion, Raul Rodriguez, Jeanne Kelly, Mary Thibeault

The committee discussed ways to reach the public to become involved in the planning of the 375th celebration. Letters inviting groups to attend the meeting in November were to be sent to all groups listed in the Town calendar, the Board of Education, as well as local farms and youth groups. Mary Thibeault drafted a letter and will get these addresses and send the invitation.

Doug Shipman volunteered to put together a short powerpoint presentation to give those who respond to the invitation and join the next meeting a bit of history to explain what we've done and where we are in the planning process, leading to how they can fit in.

The committee discussed the possibility of a community wide contest for a logo for the celebration rather than using a marketing company.

Flags on the side of utility poles along the Silas Deane Highway to celebrate the 375th year were discussed. It seems to be a rather complex (coordination with CT DOT) and expensive undertaking, but may be a good project for a sponsor.

The idea of a "Cow Parade" type of marketing idea using the onion, or apples or corn was introduced.

The Keane Foundation Family Picnic was discussed as a possible existing function that the committee might approach to combine in some way with the town's 375th anniversary.

Laurel discussed the Library as a Literary Landmark using *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* along with Phil Lohman's map. The idea of a Book Club focused on Historic Wethersfield was also brought up.

Outdoor activities that were discussed included the bike trail and Anne Kuckrow suggested designing a bike route through historic sites in Wethersfield (and beyond?). In the Cove there was discussion about getting Riverfront Recapture to sponsor canoe or kayak tours

with a bit of history around the cove and River areas. Jeanne Kelly also discussed her experiences with letterboxing this past summer with her family around CT. CT Department of Environmental Protection sponsored this. Perhaps the committee could get the DEP to do this in Wethersfield or at least include a site in Wethersfield (of historic significance we hope) for the 2009 season. It is a great activity for children and families and can be spread out over several months. This event could be tied to the 375th website.

A very general overview of a 2009 calendar of events we have discussed lists:

New Year's Dinner Dance for January (Parks and Recreation)

A possible reenactment for May (Webb/Deane/ Stevens)

Fireworks/concert for June

Cornfest for September (Chamber of commerce)

Parade for October (not near Columbus Day)

The next meeting with groups interested in joining in the planning of the 375th Celebration will be:

Thursday, November 29, 2007 in room S-2 in the Pitkin Community Center.