

## 375<sup>th</sup> Celebration committee Meeting notes: 11/29/2007

Members present: Anne Kuckro, Chief Cetran, Harry Lichtenbaum, Heather Gaunt, Martha Mayer, Laurel Goodigion, Neill Walsh, Lisa Leonard, Marilyn Fehrenbach, Martin Walsh, Raul Rodriguez, Jean Ryan, Paul Courchaine, Doug Shipman, Pat Rinaldi, Richard Mahoney, and Mary Thibeault.

Doug Shipman gave a Powerpoint presentation to introduce the new guests to the mission and history of the planning committee, an overview of what we are trying to accomplish, and what the groups can do to get involved.

Following the presentation, Individuals introduced themselves around the table with their group affiliation(s); giving a bit of their own history and what they are involved in as well as how they'd like to become involved with the town's anniversary celebration.

- Jr. Women: 18 members are interested in volunteering at event(s) put together by the committee. Additionally, Heather Gaunt is working with the Juniors and the Town's recycling committee to order re-usable grocery bags that will be for sale with the Town's seal and possibly incorporate Wethersfield's 375<sup>th</sup> celebration in some way. Maybe we will have an update on this at the next meeting.
- Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum: In May they are hoping to celebrate Washington's visit to the Webb House with an encampment on the grounds and re-enactors. The new building will be celebrated with a grand opening later in the year.
- Griswoldville has walking tours of former mill sites showcasing the industrial component of Wethersfield's history. Having the Griswoldville chapel as part of a "Historical House Tour" was mentioned.
- Liz Brezicki is the contact for the Winding Brook 4-H.
- Police Department: Chief Cetran spoke about the need to prepare (budget and request) for any police needed for functions hosted by the committee including but not limited to a parade or fireworks display. He also mentioned that special

- permits would be required for use of the cove (it had been brought up as a thought for fireworks) as a federal waterway.
- Library: Literary Legacy, a national program, is the motivation behind the development of the Wethersfield map for Witch of Blackbird Pond. The hope is to use this resource as a focus of one of our celebratory offerings. Adding to the discussion of Jeanne Kelly's idea of Letterboxing at the last meeting, Laurel discussed the idea of having a 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary passport, which patron's would have stamped when completing or visiting some of the programs offered as "events". This would alleviate the problem of keeping outdoor hidden letterboxes monitored.
  - Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association: Hold the Annual Scarecrows on Main Street and will think of a special prize for the best take on the 375<sup>th</sup> theme. Additionally, the shopkeepers would love to see an Art Show/ Arts & Music festival including sidewalk shows or exhibits if possible.
  - Beautification Trust: Hold an annual Arbor Day ceremony in April, beautify the garden areas around town and fund projects.
  - First Church: They are celebrating their anniversary as well and may have events that will coincide with the Town's celebrations.
  - The Wethersfield Yacht Club: Interested in possible water events.
  - Art League: Their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in 2008 and hope to help with the 375<sup>th</sup> committee based on their experiences this year with their own anniversary. An idea that came up was "Art Walk on Main Street" an art show along Main Street, which the representative of the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association was interested in. Another idea was similar to a Cow Parade, or as in Glastonbury with the apple, using the Wethersfield red onion as an artist's canvas and having the results part of a display in Art Walk on Main Street.
  - Garden Club: Has an annual plant sale and may sell red onions as well as participate in a parade.
  - Preservation Trust: Their focus would be on the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Nurses Association: Will celebrate 68 years in 2009. They would like to participate in the parade, and may have historical items available for display.
  - Paul Courchaine will act as a contact with Ronnie Officer to have a Wethersfield Prison exhibit – maybe in the conference

room at the Police Department – as the prison has a long history as part of Wethersfield.

The group has set the future meeting dates as the fourth Thursday of the Month at 5 p.m. at the Community Center in room S-2.

Dates for 2008 are:

January 24, 2008

February 28, 2008

March 27, 2008

April 24, 2008

May 22, 2008

June 26, 2008

July 24, 2008

No August Meeting

September 25, 2008

October 23, 2008

November 20, 2008 (third TH due to Thanksgiving)

December 18, 2008 (third TH due to Christmas)

Please bring any budget needs or materials to the January meeting, as that will be a main focus of the meeting.