

375th Celebration committee Meeting notes: 2/28/2008

Members present: Paul Courchaine, Anne Kuckro, Harry Lichtenbaum, Marilyn Fehrenbach, Jeanne Ryan, Laurel Goodgion, Chris Traczyk, Marlene Desjardins, Neill Walsh, Rick Mahoney, and Mary Thibeault.

The budget proposed to the Town Manager was summarized for the committee.

The main budget areas are:

- Banners & Signs

- Publicity

- Parade

- Fireworks

A total request was made for \$50,000 to the Town Manager.

Updates were given:

Junior Women's Club reusable shopping bags: Heather Gaunt provided a design proof for the bags, which was passed among the committee and met with great approval.

Historical Society Book Project: April will begin the information sessions and "scanning parties" for individuals with photos to bring them in to be scanned. The group hopes to choose approximately 200 photos to be published in the book, but all scanned photos will be kept digitally as a historical record.

The Art League would like to do an Art Show on the sidewalks of Old Wethersfield. A Saturday in May or June (with a rain date of Sunday) from 10am to 6pm would be preferred. The committee discussed different ways to raise funds from the event including charging for an assigned location and time which would allow for the printing of a program limiting artists and their location and time of exhibit/sale. Additionally, the exhibitors/vendors could be asked to donate a percentage of sales revenue for the day.

Webb Deane Stevens: Washington-Rochambeau encampment in May 2009 around the 19 to 23?

A narrated bus tour of Historical Wethersfield (a paid event) could be tacked on to this weekend as a 375th program offering.

The committee shared the idea that the garden clubs may be interested in being part of the River Valley / Connecticut's Rose & Garden Weekend which is typically the third weekend in June and is comprised of many special events and garden/farm tours throughout the area. The garden clubs and beautification trust will be asked if they would like to plan something to be included in our calendar.

Men's Garden Club: May 2009 Plant Sale will feature heirloom plants from colonial time as well as plants the Native Americans had.

A concert at WHS by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra as a paid event was discussed.

Commemorative souvenirs for the 375th anniversary were discussed. These could include stained glass onions, rulers/pencils, coffee mugs, sandwich glass plates, bumper stickers/window decals, as well as the grocery bags and historical books already in the works through the Junior Women's Club and Historical Society.

Signage Plan: Preserve America Grant will have welcome signs and improved signage around town. There will also be billboard ads - this year only.

Paul Courchaine volunteered to plug our dates as they are verified into the town's 2009 calendar.

Future meeting dates are the fourth Thursday of the Month at **5:30 p.m.*** at the Community Center. Hopefully these room assignments will not change, but please be aware the meetings will always be in the west wing.

Dates for 2008 are:

March 27, 2008 Room S-1

April 24, 2008 Room S-2

May 22, 2008 Room S-2

June 26, 2008 Room S-2

July 24, 2008 Room S-2

No August Meeting

September 25, 2008 Room s-2

October 23, 2008 Room S-2

November 20, 2008 (third TH due to Thanksgiving)

December 18, 2008 (third TH due to Christmas)