

Bristol Bicentennial Committee

March 28, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Stacy Buckley, Hilda Bruno, Janet Cote, Les Dion, Lucille Keegan, Claire Moorhead, Deb Johnson

Kerrin Rounds & Donna Manfra were unable to attend.

Minutes of 2/28/17: The minutes were reviewed. Lucille Keegan moved to accept the minutes. Hilda Bruno seconded and the motion passed 5-0-1.

The Committee had asked Claire Moorhead to come and speak with us regarding what assistance her company could offer us with the planning of the Bicentennial. Claire Moorhead introduced herself to the group and shared that she has some experience in this area and helped the Town of Woodstock with their 250th celebration. She shared some information on time lines and some of the material they produced.

Claire explained that Woodstock had a local artist produce a picture of the Old Town Hall and they made postcards out of it and had a commemorative stamp for people to get their postcards stamped. They had an aerial photo taken of the group and had a Civil War re-enactment. Their program booklet was filled with sponsors; highlights of their history and a list of all events that would be happening. Claire reported that they held a variety show but that did not have a large turnout.

Claire suggests that we make a decision on if we are doing an ongoing year of events; a week-long event or just a weekend. Woodstock did a four day long weekend event over one weekend. They planned it that way so that people that had left the area could plan their vacations around that weekend and return. She asked us to think about who we are aiming this event for.

We discussed the many ways we can incorporate the schools. We can look at curriculum based activities that the kids can work on throughout the year. We also discussed having the schools involved in coming up with a logo. Stacy agreed that they could work with the art teachers at the High School. Claire said that in Woodstock the kids created projects with 250 items in them. They held a poetry contest and people loaned historic items to be displayed at their event.

Claire cautioned us to not get burned out by meeting too often too early. She suggests we get sub-committees up and running. She said that her role with Woodstock was to manage the big picture. They created sponsorship opportunities and one was for families. The family received the commemorative coin, program guide listing, tickets to events and more. They estimated spending \$6,000 and ended up making \$12,000. It was suggested we could ask restaurants to do a 'Throwback Thursday' menu during the event.

Janet reported that she, Lucille & Hilda had met with Rebecca Rule today and she has agreed to help develop the play.

Lucille asked if Claire felt a short-term event was better than a year long event. Claire feels there are benefits to both. She said that they had multiple organizations host events. The Rotary Club held a pancake breakfast. Claire suggests something simple on the actual date as it is just before the summer season gets underway. She feels we should not try to compete with the 4th of July weekend but could do some sort of Open House during that time. Claire asked if we could survey the businesses to see what timeframe might work well for them. Janet asked if Claire would be willing to work with us. Claire is willing to do this with 'chunks of time' and will draw up a proposal. She said that the trick around here is reaching the Senior population as they are not all on FB.

Janet said that we need to work out budgets for each of the items/activities that we want to offer. Stacy will be meeting with staff prior to the May meeting and she will try to see what ideas they may have.

Claire said that if you offer events year-long you could do some events at the schools. Hilda asked if Woodstock had events that were more popular than others. Claire said that the street dance and ice cream social were very popular. She reported that the weather related events were tougher. The final day they did a big barbecue/picnic/softball game.

Les suggested we might want to consider having the big tent set up for the entire summer.

Election of Officers:

Chair: Lucille Keegan nominated Janet Cote as Chair. Les Dion seconded and the motion passed.

Secretary: Les will fill in until Kerrin is back and then we can vote.

We agreed to not have a Vice-Chair and let Janet delegate as needed.

Updates:

Janet: Janet is still doing band research. She is pulling a list together of all entertainment. The play will need a budget as we get closer. She is also working on a committee contact list.

Les: No report from the Select Board as yet. She will have it on the agenda for next meeting.

Hilda: She has found more encampments to contact and one that she found costs \$300.

Lucille: She reports that they met with Rebecca Rule (yankee humorist/author) today and she worked with several towns on this type of production. It will be an hour long presentation and with humor. She is putting together a proposal. Deb said that she liked Claire's question about who is the audience that we want to attract to each event. She said that NANA will be able to share the info to our elder citizens. They also might want to get involved in the storytelling. She submitted a letter of interest for NANA to be on the Committee. Les will bring this to the Select Board.

Stacy Buckley moved to adjourn the meeting. Lucille Keegan seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted, Leslie Dion