

MERRIMACK 275TH PLANNING MEETING
MARCH 15TH, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Matt Casparius, Chuck Mower, Barbara Healy, Yvette Couser, Paul Micali, Anita Creager, Bob L'Heureux, Rosemarie Rung, John Lastowka

Meeting called to order: 6:02 pm

Review Minutes from Meeting from February 22nd, 2021:

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Chuck. Minutes were approved 9 – 0.

Old Business:

- **Fundraising Update:**

Chuck reported on his successful presentation of the Covered Bridge project to the Merrimack Town Council on March 11th. He was pleased that the Town Council gave the project their unanimous support and said that the fundraising will now be able to get started on the fundraising for this project. He stated that Laurie has already lined up a number of potential opportunities and they are started to get organized.

Rosemarie spoke of the need for someone to manage the fundraising aspect to operate independently from the main committee and the events that we are planning. Matt stated that he held a similar vision as this committee as a separate group and offered his support to help as he was able to.

Paul suggested that Chuck, John and Rosemarie meet with Merrimack TV to setup a way to record presentations about the project.

Rosemarie also felt that there should be a separate page specific to the Fundraising project. Matt reported that he has access to update information on the Town website and would help to get another page setup that would be dedicated specifically to the fundraising project.

- **Boston Post Cane Award:** Matt reported that the Boston Post Cane Award recipient has been selected. The winners name is Arthur Haight and he has lived in Merrimack since 1966. Mr. Haight is 94 years old. Matt will be reaching out to Mr. Haight to see whether he is comfortable coming out in person to receive his award.

Anniversary Cookbook:

Barbara reported today is the last day for people to submit recipes. So far she has received 46 recipes from 34 contributors for the book. She is focused on formatting all of the recipes into a standard format. Barbara reported that she has not been able to finalize the details yet as the printer wants to know how many pages the book will be. Once everything has been put in she will be able to get the final cost.

- **Commemorative License Plates:**

Matt provided the group with an update on the status of our license plates. The print shop

has finalized the design but our project keeps getting bumped by State Legislator Plates which take priority over all other projects. Matt stated that he is still hopeful that we would receive them by the end of March.

- **Historical Displays:**

John provided an update on his progress to create a curated historical display which would be placed at Town Hall. He reported that the Chief Passaconway exhibit layout is pretty much set and he is still working on the other displays, but hoped to be able to send them to the printer later this week.

John reported that he is using Spectrum Marketing in Manchester and the Copy Shop in Amherst for this project. Matt will connect with John to make sure these two companies get setup as Town vendors.

Paul stated that the display will be in Town Hall starting near the official notice board and continue down the hall towards the Town Clerk's office. There is also room on the walls on the opposite side of the hallway if need be.

John asked Yvette whether there might be a possibility to also then rotate the display to the Library. Yvette confirmed that option and said they have a gallery hanging system already set up in the library which is fully adjustable.

John asked about a third possible location so that images could be rotated and Paul suggested we talked to Laurie and see whether she could talk to the Superintendent and see if there was an opportunity for the display at one of the Schools?

- **Downtown Banner Project:**

Matt reported that we are still waiting for a response from Eversource with permission to post our banners on their telephone poles. Once we get the ok, the banners will be ordered.

- **Scavenger Hunt Update:**

Anita started talking about her suggestions for prizes to offer in the scavenger hunt raffle. The scavenger hunt is going to begin in April and run thru October. The idea is that everyone who completes and returns the completed scavenger hunt card will be entered into a raffle for one of the following prizes:

- Merrimack Afghan
- Merrimack Volume II History Book
- Commemorative License Plate
- One of the Downtown Banners
- Chuck also suggested a bicentennial plate that he has

Matt has a mailbox where people can drop the completed scavenger hunt cards in which led to a discussion about where to leave place the mailbox. The question came up as to whether the library could find a place to put up the mailbox? Yvette responded that she could find a place at the library.

Anita said that the scavenger hunt was mostly set but was working to finalize permission at some of the locations. Clue #1 is on Budweiser's property and she has been having difficulty of getting approval. Paul reported that he has heard that they are cancelling all of their events and really don't people on their property right now.

New Business:

- **Town Council Proclamation:**

Paul suggested that we have the Town Council read a 275th Anniversary Proclamation at their meeting on Thursday, March 25th since it would be their last meeting before the official anniversary on April 2nd.

Rosemarie said that she would make the arrangements to obtain proclamations from Governor, State Senate and House of Representatives.

Assuming that Mr. Haight is able to attend an in person event, our official kick off event will include the presentation of the Boston Post Cane Award, will be held on Friday, April 9th at 3:30 pm at Abbie Griffin Park.

- **Commemorative Postmark:**

Matt reported that when this Committee first started meeting back in November; there was a suggestion to work with the Post Office to create a commemorative postmark for this event. Matt talked to the post office and found out that there is a requirement for 10 weeks of advanced notice; which means we waited to long to put something in place for April. The question came up as to whether it was worth offering? Yvette said that the library did this a few years ago when they had their anniversary and there was a fair amount of interest although most people simply wanted the stand and didn't necessarily want to mail the letter. No decisions were made at this time whether to try and do this later in the year.

Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting has not yet been decided. Matt said that he would email the group once he was able to get ahold of our Boston Post Cane Award recipient as we will likely have details to work out for that kick off event. Tentatively Matt said he was thinking about Monday, March 29th or Monday April 5th.

Meeting Adjourned: Rosemarie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm which was seconded by Chuck and approved 9 – 0.