**MERRIMACK 275TH PLANNING MEETING**

**MARCH 29th, 2021**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Matt Casparius, Chuck Mower, Yvette Couser, Paul Micali, Liz Calabria, Bob L'Heureux, John Lastowka, Barbara Healey, Laurie Rothhaus

**Meeting called to order:** 6:02 pm

**Review Minutes from Meeting from March 15th, 2021:**

Yvette made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by John. Minutes

were approved 9 – 0.

 **Review of Upcoming April Events**

**Kick Off Event:**Matt reviewed a summary of our 275th Anniversary Kick Off Event which will be held on Friday, April 9th at Abbie Griffin Park at 3:30 pm. Due to COVID-19; it was decided to keep the event as by invitation only.

Invited guests to include the following groups:

* Merrimack Town Council
* Merrimack’s State Representatives and State Senator
* Merrimack Historical Society Board members
* Merrimack Heritage Commission members
* 275th Anniversary Planning Committee
* Mr. Arthur Haight and family
* Elaine Blood (who nominated Mr. Haight)
* Commander Dick Peterson, American Legion
* Commander Paul Roy, VFW
* Merrimack Police & Fire Honor Guard
* Merrimack Town Hall Employees
* Loretta Jackson, Merrimack Journal
* Other Press? (invite from John Lastowka)
* Merrimack TV to record to event

**The tentative agenda for the event will include:**

* Merrimack Police/Fire Honor Guard & Presentation of the Colors
* Welcome from the Merrimack Town Council
* Reading of the Proclamations
	+ Executive Counselor David Wheeler will read the Governor’s proclamation
	+ Honorable Bob L'Heureux will read the House of Representratives proclamation
	+ Honorable Gary Daniel will read the Senate proclamation
* Presentation of the Boston Post Cane Award to Mr. Arthur Haight
* Merrimack TV to record to event
* Merrimack TV to record the event
* Podium will be setup on the bandstand with chairs around the perimeter for the Council and honored guests
* Chairs will be setup on the lawn for other invited guests.
* Matt will create an official invite to send out to our guests.

**Review of April Events:**

**Scavenger Hunt:**Anita wasn’t present but had informed me that she hoped to have the scavenger hunt ready to go in the next week or so.
 **Town Hall Photo Display:**John updated the group on the progress of the photo display project for Town Hall and will feature 1 large and 14 smaller curated photos to be hung on the walls. The April event is going to feature Merrimack’s Historical School House Locations. He had received pricing from the Copy Shop and Spectrum. Spectrum provided a price that was a fraction of the Copy Shop’s pricing and so they were given the project to complete. John reported that he is hoping to pick up the completed photos by tomorrow and then will work with Matt to get them hung at Town Hall.

**Commemorative License Plates:**Matt reported that he has been speaking with the print shop every week and they were delayed again due to a staffing shortage but they were in production and should be ready soon. Matt said that he has a flyer ready to go once we have them and they will be available for sale at Town Hall, Parks & Recreation and at the Transfer Station. They will also be available at events once we’re able to hold events.

**Recipe Book:**
Barbara reported that the deadline to submit a recipe for the recipe book closed on March 15th and she is in the process of finalizing the document for printing. She is talking to multiple print shops and working thru all the logistical details with them to get the most accurate pricing. Barbara reported that she wants to make sure we end up with a nice finished product that we can make available to sell. It will be a spiral bound book with a semi hard front and back cover. It is her hope to have them ready to print by Mid-April.

**Downtown Banner Project:**
Matt reported that we received the final approval from Eversource to hang out commemorative banners in the downtown corridor that will run on Daniel Webster Highway from the Rite Aid Plaza down to Wire Road and then from Daniel Webster Highway up Baboosic lake Road to the legion. Local business Fully Promoted is going to be printing the banners for us and they should be ready by mid-April for DPW to hang up where they remain until the fall. The banners will be alternated with American Flags.

**Parks & Rec Events in April:**Matt reported that Parks & Recreation had three related events that he is offering. First is a 275th Anniversary New Baby Contest with a special prize being given to a Merrimack Baby born closest to April 2nd.

He is also organization a Town wide community Clean up Day on Saturday, April 10th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and currently has more than 100 volunteers coming to clean up Merrimack’s Parks, Open Space and Recreation Areas.

Lastly, Parks & Recreation and the Library are jointly running a program called Moonlit Tales & Trails which will be held on Friday, April 23rd at Wasserman Park. The event will feature a short night hike in Wasserman Park followed by a historical story presented by the Library Staff around a campfire while they roast marshmallows.

**Upcoming Library Events:**Yvette reported on 3 events that the Library is holding related to the 275th Anniversary. First, on April 7th; they are holding a virtual Introduction to Genealogy Workshop.

Then on April 15th; they are having a virtual author presentation with author Christine Halvorson who will be talking about “Spinning Gold: Shaping your Family Research into compelling stories.

On April 21st; the library will be holding a virtual trivia night with questions based on local history.

**Review of May Events:**Matt reported that in addition to the events that will be continuing on throughout the year (scavenger hunt, curated photos, cookbook sales and commemorative license plate sales); Parks & Recreation is also planning a 2.75 Mile Walk/Run called the Not Quite a 5K which will be held on Saturday, May 15th.

Parks & Recreation and the Library will also be holding a second offering of the Tales & Trails program on Friday, May 21st.

**New Business:

Brainstorming for June, July & August Events:**Matt reported that now that he have the spring covered with events; we need to start thinking about events for this coming summer.

Chuck reported that he is interested in a “How to create a Windsor Chair” workshop and that the chair could be used by the Committee however they saw fit; whether it’s a raffle, donation, etc.

John knew of someone that does a 3 -4 hour workshop on Native American Powwow’s and would try to get some additional details.

Bob L'Heureux is interested in bringing in a revolutionary war troop as well as Concord Coach as a display. Matt though that these would be good ideas for any bigger events that we hold late Summer or Fall.

Matt reported that the Merrimack Rotary Club has informed him that they won’t be running any of their events on July 4th as they typically do, but would be very interested in putting on a Fall Festival type of Event in September or October. Our committee had previously discussed the idea of an end of summer festival in August but there was concerns from Rotary that this would be too soon and COVID-19 restrictions would still be in place.

Matt also clarified that the Town is tentatively still planning on the 4th of July Parade and Fireworks Display but that those details and decisions will be made by the Merrimack Town Council at a date in the future.

The Committee talked about the idea of working with Rotary on the idea of a fall festival and tentatively we are looking at October 2nd.

**Fundraising Committee Update:**Laurie reported that Rosemary is putting together a fundraising committee. She has met with Petrocelli about creating a line of 275th Anniversary & Covered Bridge promotional products to sell. They are trying to finalize those details, so that it can be announced in conjunction with the press released about the covered bridge project.

Chuck is working on creating donation boxes that can be placed at various locations in Town as an easy way for people to donate.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:33 pm