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Town of Grantham

250th Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting

May 26, 2016

Sheridan Brown called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Hall building located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

Present: Sheridan Brown, Jamielynn Garland, Warren Kimball

Meeting minutes: Nikki Arsenault

Absent: n/a

Public Attendance: Charlie Taber, Felicia Tannenbaum

Brown welcomed attendees to the meeting and discussed the current status of the committee's fundraising efforts. Brown noted that he recently learned that in order to raise funds for municipal purposes it was necessary to create a trust for the money being raised for the 250th event. Any donations or money raised would be considered "restricted gifts". He would like to put a warrant out for a vote at the Town meeting on either June 22nd or July 13th. Garland questioned how many people (votes) would need to be at the meeting and Brown noted that the requirements are much more relaxed than if they were voting on a bond.

Brown reminded the attendees that the primary purpose of the meeting tonight is to reconnect and touch base given that there wasn't a meeting last month. He will set up a shared calendar and send out invitations to view this calendar via email. He wants to be sure to be able to work around the existing planned events for the Town to avoid putting the Town in a bad spot. Brown noted the importance of operating under the "umbrella" of the Town to maintain liability protection. This will also help put things in place for people who want to help fundraise. Brown addressed Garland and noted that he was curious to know about logo development and the piece with the school.

Garland updated the committee that Lori Field will work on a logo for the 250th celebration as soon as the school year is over. She will likely come up with one or two designs; she knows Grantham well and has worked on other creative projects for the Town. Garland added that there will be many avenues for people to participate in addition to logo creation, including students at GVS who will create a project under the direction of Art teacher Betty Larrabee in the fall. Brown added that the town logo and the 250th logo could be used together in promotional materials, t-shirts, etc. as needed. While there is no set timeline for completion of the logo, it will be important to use for fundraising purposes. Discussion ensued regarding also needing the logo at the 250th table at Old Home Day.

Taber, as the representative for Eastman recreation, provided an update next. Taber noted that he (and Eastman) are open to suggestions for events, and make a point to note that much of Eastman can be enjoyed by the public. He would be happy to take specific ideas for more formal events back to the Eastman administration. Brown questioned what prior events have been held at Eastman that we might be able to "replicate." Taber noted that the golf course and restaurant are both public, as is the lake. The capacity at the Center facility is approximately 200 people. The lake is owned by the state of NH,

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but the beaches are private. Taber added that one potential event could be a fishing derby. Brown questioned the feasibility of hiring a couple of pontoon boats to do lake tours. Taber added that the Lakes and Streams committee has organized this type of event in the past. Garland questioned using island, but Taber informed the group that the island is private, and there are many regulations regarding the number of people allowed on the island, as well as fire restrictions in place. Garland then suggested a fly fishing tournament with fly demo. Taber elaborated on events that have taken place at Eastman where public participation was allowed – the triathlon, the Run for Pie (5k), and golf tournaments. He added that anything in and around South Cove would require special permission from Eastman.

Garland asked if Taber would be willing to ask Eastman what they would be willing to collaborate on and Taber agreed to ask, but noted that he would likely be asked to return to the Committee for the Committee to provide suggestions. Other ideas suggested – an outdoor winter fest (skiing and skating) and a macaroni & cheese fest. Taber noted that the “sloboggan guy” might be available to do a demo during a winter event. Brown noted that using the Center space would be helpful for hosting food-related events, or a “Taste of Grantham” event; he questioned if it was allowable to serve alcohol. Taber noted that alcohol can be served, but it would have to be served through the Bistro. Garland questioned the cost for this type of event and Taber answered that we would have to get back to her. Garland posed the idea of a hike at Eastman; Taber added for the record that the Eastman trails are public when there is snow on the ground, but the trails are private at other times of the year. The body of water is public. Following a question from Brown regarding additional follow-up needed, Garland noted that most of the big entities have been contacted; once the committee has a table at Old Home Day, hopefully there will be new volunteers and interest in order to further the planning of the events and activities.

Garland outlined the current plan for the calendar of events: Last weekend in June 2017 – Kick off dinner or small event. Additional participation from the Historical Society, the Church, and the Library. Music in the Meadow would conclude the 14-month celebration in August 2018. Garland added that people might be interested in a History of Eastman night; people can come and eat and share stories. Taber added that a lot of the history also overlaps between Eastman and Grantham. Brown noted that it is important to showcase our sense of community as we plan and implement these events and activities. The golf tournament appeals to him because it could potentially benefit a charity. Taber suggested that there should be a high point identified (perhaps a photo opportunity). Garland noted that they will create a calendar (hard copy) to show the year of events. For the photo opportunity, it was suggested that it would be very important to take the photo when the largest number of residents could be in attendance; discussion ensued regarding the possibility of taking a photo at the begin or the end of the events. Kimball noted that tapestries can be custom-made from the photos taken at events. Taber asked if there was a possibility for a town quilt. Garland noted that we would need more quilters in order to accomplish this.

Brown asked if he should send an email out to businesses and if there was anyone missing from that list. The group brainstormed a list of possibilities:

- Local banks
- Tresk Interiors
- Farmer’s Table Restaurant
- Grace’s Grantham Cafe

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- Kitchen Cabinetry (?)

Which organizations could potentially benefit from a golf tournament?

- Crisis Center
- Center for Behavioral Health
- Kearsarge
- Humane Society
- Newport Food Pantry

Brown asked who has a list of Grantham veterans. Garland noted that Ray or Ken can get that list. Garland added that the list is a good start but will need to be updated. Brown reminded that the memorial in front of the library will be part of the 250th celebration. Brown noted the importance of getting an updated list of veterans so that the memorial can be updated accordingly.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 23rd at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nikki Arsenault

Secretary