

250th Celebration Meeting Minutes

The August 14, 2019 250th Celebration Meeting took place at the Meeting House on Four Corners Rd. Volunteers in attendance were Don and Pixie Hill, Poul Heilmann, Cune and Jim Bednar, Happy and Leigh Callaway, Angela MacCreighton, Marla Binzel, Dick Hendl, Keith and Susan Cutting, Alice Nulsen, Fred Davis, Donna Tibbetts, Trudy Heath, Janet Lebrecht, Emily Cleaveland and Andy and Liz D'Amico.

Don Hill welcomed the group while they enjoyed root beer floats or sundaes left from the ice cream social at the Silent Auction. He reiterated the feedback from surrounding towns on the outstanding 250th Celebration that Springfield is having. People are in awe of the schedule and quality of events. He, also, planted the seed that the energy created from the 250th shouldn't become obsolete. He is hopeful that people will transition to new positions and committees within the town once the New Year begins.

A motion was made by Leigh Callaway to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2019 Meeting. Jim Bednar seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved without change.

Leigh Callaway gave the treasurer's report. To date we have raised \$99,692.15 with \$68,276.19 in the bank. With some money still trickling in from the Silent Auction, we will surpass the \$100,000 amount soon. Sales from merchandise has slowed and amount spent on buying merchandise is higher than the amount sold. It was decided to have a sale on remaining merchandise of "up to %15" off. The goal is to reduce inventory before the end of the year.

Leigh, also, gave an update on the Time Capsule. All collected items have been taken to the Historical Society and the next Time Capsule Committee Meeting on Sept. 9, 2019 will be held at the Historical Society to begin cataloging.

An update on several of the past events, beginning with Old Home Day was discussed. Don Hill asked for any suggestions on how to improve Old Home Day if it should continue. Emily Cleaveland highly recommended hiring Mike Morris and Family again for entertainment value. Her recommendation would be to have a better location for their performance as she felt it was a little out of the way this

year. Suggestions for the parade was to have the announcer located near the Rec. Field. Don Hill suggested having the speakers and announcer on the post office side of Main St. facing the Rec. Field. Also, spacing of the parade entries could be improved, with musical entries stopping at the judging area to play a piece of music. Pixie Hill stated that the Old Home Day Committee needs new energy as several long time players are leaving. Please consider helping the Old Home Day Committee.

The July 20th Concert, donated by The River Band, was not well attended, but it turned out to be the hottest day of the summer. People who did attend thought it was a great event. The band members enjoyed themselves as well. Vespers on July 28 was well attended. The Silent Auction on Aug. 10 was a huge success raising over \$3700 total (an improvement over last year).

Poul Heilmann asked for volunteers to fill slots for the Art Show (Fri and Sat) and for staffing the wagon into Sept. The need to sell merchandise is important so this is important. The slots quickly filled up with volunteers.

Liz D'Amico spoke about the upcoming Art Show. There was some confusion as to whether or not the art sale would be on Friday night as well as Saturday. The consensus was that the sale should not be on Friday as it had not been advertised that way. Volunteers filled the necessary help requirements for the event.

Emily Cleaveland gave an update on the Stroll Thru the Dahlias event that she is hosting. She is hearing that a large number of people are interested in coming to this event, so she is planning to have set tour times if people want an explanation from her directly. There will be a sign up table (Donna Tibbetts volunteered to man it) for people to sign up for a tour. Don Hill will be Emily's handler, keeping her on the necessary schedule. Hogg Hill residents are preparing the refreshments. It promises to be a very exciting event.

Marla Binzel gave an update on the upcoming Conservation Hike on Sept. 7. It will be held from 1-3:30, no pre-registration required. Interested parties should meet at the Pleasant View Cemetery, wearing long pants as many ticks inhabit the area. This is a 2 mile hike on a town owned lot, with not much change in elevation.

Jim Bednar talked about the Meeting House Rededication on Sept. 7, beginning at 7 p.m.. One of the objectives is to present the bronze plaque for the Meeting House as it is on the Registry of Historic Buildings. Cake and ice cream will At 7:30, the Historical Society will introduce it's keynote speaker, Paul Wainwright, who has prepared a talk on the significance of Meeting Houses in New England, with particular attention to the Springfield Meeting House first dedicated in September 1799.

Don Hill discussed the Golf Tournament at TLV on Sept. 14. Adam Bray has been working hard to make this tournament more profitable by having local businesses sponsor the 9 holes. There is still room for foursomes to sign up for the tournament. TLV will be donating the cookout that follows.

Don closed the meeting by letting the 250th volunteers know that forthcoming would be a "Statement of Purpose" document for the Town of Springfield 250th Charitable Trust Fund. The purpose of the document is to state that the raising of funds during the 250th Celebration has been to raise enough money for a gift to the town in the form of an "lift" at the Meeting House. Should the town not vote to accept the lift through a warrant article at town meeting in March 2020, approximately \$40,000 raised by donations for the "lift" will be returned to the donors. Any remaining money left in the trust will be used solely for improving handicapped access to the Meeting House on Four Corners Rd. This document will be presented to the Board of Selectman and run by Town Council before being signed. Hopefully at the next 250th Meeting on Sept. 18, this document will be available to share with the 250th Celebration volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 18 at the Meeting House.

Respectfully submitted,

Pixie Hill