

375th Anniversary Steering Committee

Notes of meeting November 29, 2013

Chairman Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 in the Portsmouth Public Free Library.

Doug reported that a group of Steering Committee (SC) members met for four hours Sunday, November 25 at Clement's Marketplace displaying 375th merchandise and passing out literature. Very successful and will be repeated on Sunday, December 2nd.

SC needs to find liaisons with veterans groups, scout troops, schools etc. Asked for recommendations.

One essential focus needs to be on the key weekend of Labor Day, the weekend should be prime responsibility of the steering committee to organize. We are asking the town council to approve dates of Thursday, August 29 thru Sunday, September 1. Thursday will be reception at Glen Manor House, Friday is wine tasting at Greenvale Vineyards, Saturday will be the morning parade and a polo match at Glen Farm at 5:00 p.m. Sunday may start with a morning ecumenical service, afternoon a tractor pull, chicken BBQ, with an introduction and demonstration of modern square dancing.

Doug expressed his concern that progress on the parade was lacking. Roberta Stevens explained how the 350th committee organized their parade. Following the parade will be canon fire from the Bristol Ferry Town Common either on a ship or exchange of volley from the Bristol side of the bay.

Committee PowerPoint (PP) showed and discussed list of events that are confirmed. Need more people to take ownership of proposed events.

Doug discussed responsibilities of various committees and the importance of not going off on something without discussing with the designated committees.

Following discussion of the events schedule, Doug stated that the first item at the next meeting will go through the events list line by line.

Katherine Gagliano explained how we capture e-mail addresses for use as mailing list. John McDade is unable to continue on the committee and has turned over his notes and files to Katherine.

Rich Talipsky discussed the 375th web site, an overview video, tour brochure and importance of exposure such as we had at Clement's Marketplace, Rotary Club etc.

Molly Magee reported that the fund balance was at \$8,400. A suggestion was made that collection boxes should be placed in strategic places around town.

Jane Roggerio reported that letters soliciting sponsorship was mailed on November 14. BankNewport contributed as a Colonist (\$100.) and Chase Farms offered in-kind service of plants at any event appropriate.

Roberta discussed a possible raffle for a trip for two to England. That would cover cost, above that would be profit. Local quilting group to discuss possibility of doing this at their next meeting. Suggestion was made that a cruise might be a more effective way to sell tickets. Doug stated that it was hoped that an official Portsmouth delegation might fly to for the investiture of the new Lord Mayor. The delegation would invite him to the Labor Day weekend events. Jane Roggerio stated that a donated time share would also make a good raffle prize.

Roberta Stevens suggested that, with the "dive" coming up, it would be good to have ribbons indicating "committee" in order to answer questions. Doug stated that it was a good idea and we should have them. Bob Hamilton will purchase from Hodges Badge before the next meeting. Roberta stated that we needed to get on the town council agenda and invite the town council, clerks, administrator and town sergeant to participate in the "dive". A printed invitation (Jane R. will design) and packet of "hot chocolate" could comprise the invitation. This was agreed to and Doug will get on the December 10th agenda.

Jane Roggerio stated that caps with the 375th logo are on order and some will be available for sale at least by the January 1st dive.

Doug stated that we need to get official endorsement or a resolution from the town council recognizing the 375th Anniversary Committee.

Bob Hamilton reported that he talked to Louie Escobar about his 4th of July fireworks display. Normal display is \$5,000 shared by Escobar Farm donations, and Clement's Marketplace and Bill's Sales. Clement's augmented the display for their anniversary by \$7,000. Louie said that \$10,000 would make a very nice, impressive display. Roberta Stevens suggested tabling this until later on in the year when we were more aware of our finances. One of our sponsors may wish to co-sponsor the fireworks.

Doug asked if the SC could meet at 4:00, December 13th in order that those members wishing to attend the Portsmouth Business Association holiday party. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hamilton

Following