



375th Anniversary Celebration Committee
January 9, 2019 ~ Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman – Mike Costello, Vice Chairperson – Connie Wenzel-Jordan, Abby Abrahamson, Jen LeComte, Dave LeComte, Laura Schwall, Jann McMurry, Neal Harrington, Cheryl Gouveia, Joe Nunes, Nancy Muri, Sheila Kramer, Jake Kramer, Kim Fagundes, Anna Deignan, Sandy Phillips, Kevin Hebert, Cynthia Lee, Ken Abrams, Jean Grotta

Guests: Gerry Schwall, Frank Gouveia, Michael Deignan

Meeting came to order at 7:14 PM

Motion: Cheryl Gouveia made the motion to accept minutes – seconded by Sandy Phillips – approved unanimously – at 7:15 PM

Committee Organization

Connie Wenzel-Jordan asked if committee members would like to keep their positions in the new year, such as treasurer, clerk, etc. Gerry Schwall asked if there is anyone who doesn't want to be appointed. The steering committee will be kept together; this will be added to the next Board of Selectmen meeting agenda. Anna Deignan suggested sending an email to everyone on the committee who isn't in attendance to see who would like to be reappointed.

Treasurer's Report

Jake Kramer gave the treasurer's report. The Committee currently owes \$8,546.68 until we pay back the \$50,000. He said that in May of 2019 we will be able to transfer funds from the Highway and Police Departments (a total of \$2,453). This will bring our balance down to \$6,093.05. On January 15th, Anawan Pharmacy will provide \$2,453 in proceeds from the sale of 375th Anniversary t-shirts and merchandise from July to December. (Jake Kramer said that we have about 60 t-shirts left.) We now need to generate roughly \$3,500. We will try to pay this off by Town Meeting on May 13th. Gerry Schwall said that the funds from the Police and Highway accounts will need to be discussed with the Board of Selectmen because it was approved as an operating budget and not as a 375th Anniversary line item. Either Mike Costello or Gerry Schwall will contact Town Counsel, Jay Talerman, about this. Mr. Schwall stressed that we need to use a process that is legitimate and follows accounting guidelines. It could possibly become a town meeting vote.

Joe Nunes asked to clarify the amount that we need to raise through fundraisers. Laura Schwall and Cheryl Gouveia said that through the painting party in November and the proceeds from VIP seat sales, 375th Anniversary glasses, the Donna Ide print, a Cultural Council donation, and 375th Anniversary donations, our balance was brought down over the past several months.

Town Events Committee

Dave LeComte spoke about the Town Events Committee. It is a separate committee from the 375th Committee. The current focus of the committee is to donate proceeds from events to the 375th Committee. Sandy Phillips asked when the Town Events Committee was started. Jake Kramer said that it was started about 30 days ago. Mike Costello said that it was posted and addressed at a Board of Selectmen meeting. Gerry Schwall added that the Town Events Committee was originally that Harvest Block Party Committee. The name had evolved, even though the single focus of the committee was the Harvest Block Party. Now the Town Events Committee and the Harvest Block Party Committee are separate groups with different focuses.

Mike Costello suggested that if the 375th raises more than we need, the leftover funds could go to the Town Events Committee. Jake Kramer said that the Town Events Committee is working with the state to transfer funds from one committee to the other. Gerry Schwall suggested that the Town Events Committee and the 375th Committee could possibly run events together as a team.

Sandy Phillips asked where leftover money would go if the Town Events Committee raises more money than the 375th Committee needs. Mike Costello said that the Town Events Committee would keep the money for future events beyond the 375th Anniversary Celebration. He encouraged anyone who is interested in joining the Town Events Committee to fill out a talent bank form. Members of the Town Events Committee are not required to participate in every single event that the Committee holds.

Mike Costello said that once the 375th Committee raises the \$50,000 we will dissolve and the Town Events Committee will take over. Laura Schwall asked if appointments to the 375th Committee should go to June 30th or December 31st. Mike Costello said that they should go until June 30th.

Taste of Rehoboth

Mike Costello asked if everyone is in agreement about holding another Taste of Rehoboth event. The sub-committee has already been formed, and the event date is June 4th. Dave LeComte said that the sub-committee already has a contract from Francis Farm. Joe Nunes asked if businesses from surrounding towns will be invited to the event. Dave LeComte said that this year's event will focus more on Rehoboth businesses and farms. Kim Fagundes added that outside restaurants will still be invited.

Keep Rehoboth Beautiful

Abby Abrahamson gave an update on the Keep Rehoboth Beautiful Committee. They recently transitioned from a sub-committee of the 375th Anniversary Committee to a full committee. Keep Rehoboth Beautiful is in the beginning stages of planning a town-wide roadside cleanup that will take place from April 22nd to April 28th. The event will start on a Monday and end on a Sunday. They are hoping to launch a litter prevention poster contest in Rehoboth schools as a part of the event. Keep Rehoboth Beautiful is also working to implement several smaller campaigns, such as promoting reusable cup use and distributing trash bags for cars.

Golf Tournament

Ken Abrams said that the golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th at Hazleton Golf Course on Summer Street. Since the golf tournament will be on a Saturday, hopefully more people will attend. The owner of Hazleton said that the clubhouse should be up and running by May 18th. If it isn't ready, the tournament dinner will be held at Crestwood Country Club. Joe Nunes said that they aren't sure about the cost yet. Joe Moniz, owner of Crestwood Country Club, had given a good price for the golfers last year since it was for the 375th Anniversary. This year, our profit might be different. Mr. Nunes will invite the Dixon Golf representative to attend the upcoming tournament, and he will also see if we can get a car from the dealership. They will try to replicate the September 2018 golf tournament as much as possible. Ken Abrams said that they are working to get more people to attend, and that they are hoping for 36 foursomes. Joe Nunes asked Sandy Phillips to make another quilt for the golf tournament. Laura Schwall asked if anyone knows where the Rehoboth Lions will be holding their golf tournament. Joe Nunes replied that the Rehoboth Lions will be golfing in August at a different course. He added that he and Mr. Abrams will meet in a couple of weeks to continue planning the event. In addition, the owner of Crestwood Country Club offered his facilities at no cost for future events, and suggested holding a wine tasting.

Bike Run/BBQ Event

Mike Costello suggested that the Bike Run/BBQ should be held around June. Jean Grota said that in her experience, earlier is better and suggested that the event take place in May. She said that the majority of money is usually raised from the BBQ and raffle as opposed to the bike run itself. In the past, she has organized a bike run for a kids group and doesn't believe in alcohol for motorcycles. If the 375th Committee would like to have alcohol at the event, she said that we would need insurance, a rider, and an addendum. She offered to do this as a part of her business. Mike Costello said that the 375th Committee would likely need to do the event without alcohol. Jean Grota added that her bike run always ended at the Dighton pavilion and that we would need a police escort. Mike Costello said that when the Rehoboth Lions held their bike run, they would set up at Palmer River Elementary School and end at the South Rehoboth Gun Club where the BBQ would be. They had a bar, band, and tents. Jean Grota suggested that they meet in early February to begin planning further. Sandy Phillips suggested adding to the rider that everyone must wear a helmet. Joe Nunes said that the Rehoboth Lions have their event in the beginning of June.

Additional Business

Mike Costello asked the Committee to join him in congratulating Anna Deignan on her pregnancy. The Committee also congratulated Connie-Wenzel Jordan on her half-retirement, as she recently concluded her career as editor of RehobothNow.com.

Jen LeComte asked what happened to the 375th Anniversary Parade DVD. Mike Costello said that Derek Rousseau has been very busy and is still working on it.

Jen LeComte asked about the 375th Anniversary time capsule. Mike Costello said that it has not yet been started, but it will be created. The 375th Anniversary banners hanging on Route 44 will be added to the time capsule.

Mike Costello asked for the Committee's input on our next meeting date. Connie Wenzel-Jordan suggested that we meet in one month. The Committee will plan to meet on February 13th unless the Republican Caucus meets on that date. If this is the case, the 375th Committee will meet on February 27th.

Motion to Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Joe Nunes made the motion to adjourn the Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 375th Anniversary Celebration Committee meeting. Sandy Phillips seconded and the committee unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Abby J. Abrahamson

Meeting Minutes Approved (date and time): Date: 2/13/19 Time: 7:15 PM

Signature of 375th Anniversary Celebration Committee Chairman
after minutes have been approved:


Michael R. Costello - Chairman
