

## 300<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Minutes

June 17, 2019

Call to Order: Chairman Jon Tarrant called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Regular members present were Peter Vermilyea, Cleve Fuessenich, Gerry Perusse, and Rosemarie Greco. Janet Peterson was appointed as a regular member. Absent was Lisa Losee. Art Coffill arrived late. Present from the public was Chuck Conn.

Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2019 Special Meeting: C. Fuessenich made motion to accept the minutes with the following correction: under the fifth paragraph.....EDC and the Community Center were 'sprucing up' the Information Booth. Motion was seconded by P. Vermilyea. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

J. Tarrant reported that a \$2,500 Seherr Thoss Fund grant application that he had submitted to help fund the fireworks has been approved and a check should be received soon. G. Perusse reported that the Community Center had received \$850 last he knew and he will check on it again. J. Tarrant will check on the balance of the fireworks revenue fund with the Finance Dept.

Art Coffill arrived.

### Reports on assignments from last meeting:

- a) Website publicity and difficulty with updates: R. Greco was approached by a long time local resident who did not know of the Memorial Day Parade and thought it was part of the 300<sup>th</sup> celebration. She explained to the resident that it was not and that the parade was a yearly event. She felt this was an instance where the town website was not working. She also reported glitches with Civicliff and the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary link on the town website. Barbara Putnam had trouble trying to post an event to the site. Publicity is so important and the website is not working properly. J. Tarrant stated that the biggest problem is that we do not have control of the site. He will speak with the First Selectman to see if something can be done. J. Peterson asked if the Town had a facebook page. It does not. C. Fuessenich stated that he often has trouble logging on to the Town website. J. Tarrant stated that, as with anything, it would cost money to have someone manage the website. R. Greco mentioned using a high school student. J. Tarrant stated that there needed to be consistency. J. Peterson stated that she would be willing to moderate a facebook page for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, short-term, through the end of the year. She will look into it. P. Vermilyea warned of the danger of random comments being shared. R. Greco asked if there was a way to just share information and not allow comments. J. Peterson will research that.
- b) Publicity Update: C. Conn stated that there was not much new to report. Banners have been hung, full-color flyers have been printed and will be sent out with all tax bills. J. Tarrant thanked him and Bill Jones for all that they are doing.
- c) Fireworks Update: J. Tarrant reported that Permit Application instructions were being sent to him. This is for the permit from the State. It is 13 pages long and must be signed by the First Selectman/Chief of Police and the Fire Marshall. The fee is \$100. He has been told that the State is running behind in issuing its permits. The date for the fireworks is still Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:15 p.m. with a rain-date of July 21<sup>st</sup>. He is hoping it does not rain. The Summerfest is July 20<sup>th</sup> as well and does not have a rain date. Parking must still be worked out. It is a police

and fire department issue. Even though it has been in the newspaper, on Litchfield.bz, on the websites and printed on flyers, there are people who still don't know about the fireworks. G. Perusse asked about speaking with Raz about a 300 foot barricade. J. Tarrant will take care of it, working also with police. He believes the entrance to the schools will be shut off, Constitution Way will remain open, and the back entrance to the Plumb Hill fields will be opened for viewers. He stated that the Company we are working with are very good and there shouldn't be any problems.

Update on 2019 Activities:

- a) 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flag: C. Fuessenich reported that Susan Kennedy felt strongly the need to replace the original flag with one that will stand out more and she will pay for it. He owns the current flag and will be happy to have it hung at the Town Hall or other appropriate place. The Community Center has ordered one that will match the new flag. J. Tarrant suggested maybe the flag pole in front of the old jail or in front of Center School as options.
- b) J. Tarrant again stated how glad he was that the May 19<sup>th</sup> event went so well. It was a beautiful day, the weather was great and it was well attended by the public. He thanked the Committee for their work.
- c) P. Vermilyea reported on the Litchfield Challenge held by the Historical Society on June 1<sup>st</sup>. It was very successful. They had twelve teams with 75 people participating. It involved 7 locations in all the boroughs. Various puzzles and an old-fashioned skittles game were used to bring the teams to the next site. They completed the challenge in just under 3 hours. It ended with a party at the Tapping Reeve House. They will do it again in two years.
- d) Patriots weekend: C. Fuessenich announced that R. Greco is now associated with the Friday Garden Party. He stated that they had a 'dry run' on the Green and it should be a huge success. He has been told that nothing like this event has been done in Connecticut before. R. Greco reported that the Garden Party will be the Friday night before from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott House on South Street. They are still in the process of planning the event. There will be colonial music and re-enactors will camp there. C. Fuessenich told the story of why that location was chosen: In 1776, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Declaration of Independence was brought to Manhattan by horse to General Washington. In reaction to what had been read, rioters tore down the statue of King George. Oliver Wolcott was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The statue was brought to his house on South Street by ox cart. There it was melted down to create 4,288 musket balls, which were distributed to Revolutionary War soldiers. It was later determined that those same musket balls were used at the Battle of Georgetown. The Friday evening party is to be a fundraiser for the Saturday event. J. Tarrant spoke of a mural in the Center School Library depicting the melt down of the statue. C. Fuessenich spoke of a very large oil painting loaned to the First National Bank of Litchfield [Now Union bank] by Bernie Fuessenich, depicting the same. The painting, though moved, is still there. P. Vermilyea reported that he has seen the book being done for that weekend and it is very well done. Eileen Schmidt is working on it. It will be on sale for \$10.00.

J. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by G. Perusse. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Losee