

CHAPLIN BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chaplin, Connecticut

Remote Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Dick Weingart, Anne Sicilian, Bob Grindle, Kayse Pellegrino, Julie Lindquist and First Selectman Bill Rose.

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

Bill Rose reported that per Executive Order, all Zoom meetings are required to be recorded and posted on the website. The audio from digital recorders takes up a lot of space. To help consolidate, Zoom can record and send a link that can be posted on the website. A memo will be sent out with the details.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020:

Motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020, was made by Anne Sicilian with the following corrections: Item #6c1) - correct the spelling for Signs Plus. Item #7 – correct the spelling for John Meyer. **The motion was seconded by Warren Church and carried unanimously.**

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Dick Weingart suggested adding a Budget to the agenda.

Budget – Dick Weingart reported that funds put aside so far for the Committee's work and the Bicentennial Celebration is part of the CIP Plan (\$15,000 this past July with another \$10,000 slated for the July coming up). The Fireworks Display is a culminating event that was last proposed at approximately \$20,000. He suggested a \$25,000 slot for the Fireworks Display and will bring to the CIP Committee meeting this Thursday. Consensus of the Committee is for Dick Weingart to initialize paperwork in the CIP Plan for the Fireworks Display in the amount of \$25,000.

6. PRIORITIZING OF PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE LIST IN NOVEMBER 10, 2020 AGENDA:

The project/activities list from the November meeting were reviewed.

Arboretum Kickoff - is done. Work will continue in the spring with more fundraising and more planting in the fall. Anne Sicilian mentioned that a River Birch has died and asked who is doing maintenance. Bill Rose responded that the tree will be taken care of in the spring with maintenance done by the town and help from volunteers Helen Weingart and Dave Stone.

Publicity – a letter will be sent out to all Commissions and Committees to make them aware of what the Bicentennial Committee is doing and request participation.

Neighborhood Watch and events Facebook Page, setting up a Facebook Page – Anne Sicilian commented that posting activities and events will be ongoing with advanced planning needed just for the activities.

Engagement of the Schools – Julie Lindquist suggested going to the schools with ideas that could be planned around the Bicentennial activities instead of waiting to hear from them. Anne Sicilian suggested contacting the Principal to present ideas on what the Committee is looking for (possibly the Art teacher doing a display or the PTO joining Chaplin Cleanup Day). Leslie Ricklin suggested building activities around the curriculum that the schools need to follow. Warren Church reported that the school is very receptive and suggested giving out a medal for the PTO 5K Race. He also suggested someone to be responsible for and coordinate the different activities.

Banner – There is a link in the email for Signs Plus. Bill Rose presented information from CCM (the town is a member) that offers discounts on printing. They have smaller banners (3ft x 6ft – could be made larger by sewing together) and leaflets and flyers that are very inexpensive. Leslie Ricklin would like to make sure the new logo is on the banner. Julie Lindquist suggested using a graphic artist in town. Bob Grindle volunteered to oversee the Banner Project.

Town Play – Warren Church will work on the Town Play with Doug Dubitsky’s daughter who was volunteered to be the Director and is a Theater Major at UCONN. He suggested a short production followed by refreshments and will ask for a proposal.

Garden Tours/House Tours – Kayse Pellegrino reported that she looked at other towns online and found good advice and guides on what to do. She suggested reaching out to the community for any interest of participating and making a Town Map of different properties to direct people on their own. Anne Sicilian suggested an Arts & Garden Tour and will follow up with artist Jane Collins. Warren Church suggested doing four walks, one per month on several properties that Joshua’s Trust has in town. The town would need to fix their trail. Leslie Ricklin, Warren Church and Kayse Pellegrino will meet to map out strategies.

Moving the Museum – Julie Lindquist is interested in working on this project and asked if it has been brought before the Historic Commission. Bill Rose responded that the project has not moved forward yet.

Town Historian – Leslie Ricklin reported that finding a Town Historian hasn’t been successful getting off the ground. She also announced that a Sub-Committee of the Library is working on a Poet Laurette. Julie Lindquist suggested seeing if anyone from the school system is interested. Kayse Pellegrino suggested the Committee split up the tasks if there is no interest from anyone else. Leslie Ricklin responded that Bob Grindle is looking up historical documents from neighbors and Sandra Horning’s son will be doing a talk on Ben Chaplin’s will (his Senior Project). Warren Church suggested having someone extend the written history done for the 150th Celebration by looking at town records and articles from important events (he has some histories written by his Dad). Anne Sicilian’s husband is interested in looking at photos and items in the Museum on the town history and will check to see if he is interested in documenting the written history. Leslie Ricklin suggested a goal of having a Town Historian going forward beyond the Bicentennial.

Drone Photograph – Kayse Pellegrino’s husband will do a town photo with a drone.

Fireworks Display - Warren Church suggested scheduling the Fireworks now with alternate dates as it will be a big event with many activities. Leslie Ricklin suggested working with the Rec Commission to organize setup and parking (they did a great job with a previous Fireworks Display). Leslie Ricklin, Warren Church and Dick Weingart (who volunteered to work on the event) will meet with Dave Stone.

Sharing Articles - Warren Church will bring articles to Bob Grindle. Bob Grindle reported that the Senior Center Memoire Index has 100+ wonderful stories written down that he is putting into an article and would be great for kids. Leslie Ricklin asked if the writers would be willing to put together a panel for a Library talk (Bob Grindle will check).

7. ASSIGNING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WORKING ON THESE ACTIVITIES WITH AN APRIL DEADLINE:

- Anne Sicilian was asked to talk to the Chaplin Elementary School Principal.
- Julie Lindquist was asked to work with Leslie Ricklin to design a calendar with photos of the town by Victor Boomer and include events and activities for the Bicentennial. The calendar will be published and sold as a fundraiser with other Bicentennial items.

The Committee was asked to bring what they find to the next meeting.

8. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

9. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Acknowledge neighboring towns (Windham, Mansfield, Hampton) for giving up land to form the Town of Chaplin.

10. DATE AND TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on February 9th at 4:30 PM.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*