

CHAPLIN AD-HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chaplin, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Anne Sicilian and Julie Lindquist. Unable to attend were members Dick Weingart, Bob Grindle and First Selectman Bill Rose.

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2021:

Motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2021 made by Anne Sicilian with the following corrections:

Pg. 2 under Calendar – change adds to ads throughout this section. *The motion was seconded by Warren Church and carried unanimously.*

5. REPORTS ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FROM APRIL MEETING:

a. Dick Weingart – Procedure for paying for expenses for the Bicentennial: members discuss costs/sponsors re: printing the calendar, framing the founding documents, banner(s), programs for play, celebration day Sept. 10, souvenirs:

Julie Lindquist presented update on the Calendar. The Calendar will remain historical by avoiding advertisements but will reserve the option if more funding is needed. Jean Givens has given permission to use articles from the 1997 Program she wrote on the history of Chaplin. Copies of her articles will be added to the front and back of the Calendar including a map of Chaplin Street. The Calendar will go out in October.

Leslie Ricklin attended the Remote Public Hearing on the Budget and reported that a tax increase projected for next year may impact funding for the Bicentennial so the Committee will need to do more fundraising. The Arboretum Group has decided not to do fundraising this year.

Leslie Ricklin presented large 2022 calendar for display at the Library to inform people of upcoming events. Julie Lindquist suggested a Bicentennial corner in the Library. Upcoming walks/talks include: Hosta Garden near the Riverbed Walk by Rusty Lanzit in July, Rattlesnake Trail Walk in October by Warren Church, Walks by Deb Fields in June (Warren will contact), History of the Church by Alex Hill in March, History of William Ross Library by Columbia Town Historian in collaboration with Leslie Ricklin in April. The months of June and August are open.

b. Warren Church – updates on the play:

Warren Church reported he is waiting to hear from Director Sydney Dubitsky. Leslie Ricklin expressed the need to narrow down the time of the play and suggested it be held in the afternoon. She also suggested having refreshments after the play at Garrison Park where the Babcock Band will be performing. The Babcock Band will also be performing on September 10th and needs to be coordinated with the Rec Department (Anne will contact).

c. Anne Sicilian – update on T-shirts:

Anne Sicilian presented update on the T-shirts and is waiting to hear from Danielson Surplus (used by the Rec Department). The new Town Logo for T-shirts would be too expensive with way too many colors. Part of the design could be used and would need to be redrawn such as the bridge (Warren

suggested a blue t-shirt with the bridge). Warren Church suggested seeking help from Amy Kalisher who is an artist that helped with the Arboretum brochure (Leslie will contact). Leslie Ricklin suggested using round black and white logo with the bridge that was used on the memorial plaques for the trees and will get a copy. Anne Sicilian and Julie Lindquist suggested limiting options to the following: short sleeve white T-shirt with sizes of Medium, Large and Extra-Large.

d. Bob Grindle – update on banners/signs:

Leslie Ricklin reported that there is no update on the signs. Anne Sicilian suggested using the Bulletin Board in the island at Town Hall to display a sign now announcing the coming of the 2022 Bicentennial. Leslie Ricklin suggested a sign for the Bulletin Board on the porch of the Town Hall. Julie Lindquist suggested balloons for the corners of the Bulletin Boards to draw attention to the signs.

e. Leslie – update on Senior Center contact, library talks/walks (discuss if we want to fix specific dates to these):

Leslie Ricklin is pleased with the receptive response from the Senior Center for taking her suggestions for a Senior Center Cookbook Fundraiser and displaying old photos with an invitation in their monthly Newsletter for seniors to consider.

Planned talks/walks include: Ben Chaplin's Will in January, History of the Church with an Ice-Cream Social in March, History of the William Ross Library in April, Ruth Snow Bowden's Quilts by Kathy Smith in May, Hubbard Walk in June, August is open and the Big Event on September 10th. Anne Sicilian suggested a walk of the new property on Tower Hill. Some participants have expressed concerns with getting pinned down with a date so far in advance (many events need to be scheduled way ahead of time). There are contingency plans for the weather.

f. Bill: update on Museum: No update

g. Discuss if the committee wishes to pursue topic of garden tours:

Kayse Pellegrino resigned from the Committee. Anne Sicilian suggested a garden tour in June to coordinate with the Art & Garden Tour held in the surrounding area. Leslie Ricklin received 6 names from Helen Weingart of people that may be interested in garden tours (Julie will contact them). Warren suggested having someone to organize the tours such as a Garden Club. Julie Lindquist suggested Sue Peifer for Garden Tour ideas (Julie will contact).

6. CONTINUE WORK ON THESE PROJECTS. ARE THERE OTHER PROJECTS WE NEED TO FOCUS ON? IS THERE ANYONE/PEOPLE WE WANT TO INVITE TO THE SEPTEMBER 10 EVENT?

Discussion was held regarding people to invite to the September 10th event that includes: The Governor, dignitaries from the 3 towns (Hampton, Windham and Mansfield) that helped form the Town of Chaplin, elected officials in the district, new Resident Trooper, someone to honor for their long service to the Town, important people to recognize in Town (Town Committees, Leaders of Programs, people who served in the military, representatives from the Fire, Police and Town Hall possibly with a parade), oldest person in Town and new Poet Laurette to read a poem of Chaplin. Warren Church suggested setting up booths for dignitaries. Leslie Ricklin suggested having further discussion when there is a full Committee.

Julie Lindquist suggested reaching out to Parish Hill who showcased their students and staff in their recent Newsletter. She also reported that obtaining a Bicentennial Stamp needs to be applied for 2-3 years in advance (a historical Chaplin postmark is being looked into). Leslie Ricklin would like to get Chaplin involved in Channel 3 – 20 Towns in 20 Days for next year.

7. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Procedure for Expenditures
- Update on the Play
- Update on T-shirts
- Update on Banners/Signs
- Update on Museum
- Update on Garden Tours

Warren Church suggested setting up a booth to announce the 2022 Bicentennial at Willimantic's 3rd Thursday that begins in May. Leslie Ricklin reported that the Selectmen and Historic Commission from Hampton, Windham and Mansfield will be invited to the play. She also reported that the Town photo on September 10th will be taken with a drone owned by the Town and suggested selling photos as a fundraiser. Anne Sicilian suggested burying a time capsule possibly involving the school who has done one previously.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on June 8th at 4pm.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (5:00 PM) made by Anne Sicilian, seconded by Julie Lindquist and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*