

CHAPLIN BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chaplin, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2020

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Anne Sicilian, Bob Grindle, Julie Lindquist and First Selectman Bill Rose. Unable to attend were members Dick Weingart and Kayse Pellegrino.

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2020:

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 29, 2020, was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Bob Grindle and carried unanimously.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Welcome to Julie Lindquist who was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacancy for Dave Shenker's term through December 31, 2022.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS:

a. Arboretum Kickoff:

Leslie Ricklin commented about The Arboretum Kickoff event that was a wonderful experience with a variety of 22 trees planted. Thanks to volunteers Warren Church, Dick Weingart and Bill Rose who watered the trees. A meeting will be held soon to develop a budget. Anne Sicilian was pleased by the information presented about planting trees by arborists Dave Stone and Josh and will continue working on a nature brochure on trees and the area. Julie Lindquist commented that the event was a great idea to showcase the small town of Chaplin. The Chronicle did not show up as planned. Bob Grindle asked for any pictures taken for an article he hopes to write for the Neighbors paper.

b. Town Historian: No Report

c. Publicity for the Bicentennial:

1) Banner to announce the Bicentennial:

Leslie Ricklin presented a possible banner with the Town Logo. Sign Plus in Willimantic offers a 32 x 120 (standard size) single sided, 13oz made of vinyl and weatherproof at a cost of \$225 and doesn't include a post. Anne Sicilian expressed concerns a banner would be looked at and forgotten after blending into the background. Bill Rose suggested one or two 1-sided banners to move around different town buildings (Town Hall and Library) and taking down during inclement weather. Warren Church suggested a 2-sided banner on the road for the Grand Finale and putting up little signs before each event. Bob Grindle suggested advertising on the Billboard on the intersection of Route 6 and Route 198 and will check with Parish Hill to see how much it cost. Bill Rose reported that Chaplin was awarded the STEAP Grant that will be used to purchase an electronic sign for the Firehouse to post different events. The sign is 4ft x 8 ft (similar to the one in Windham), double sided and can be setup through a cell phone. Julie Lindquist suggested no rush on the banner to give time to gather more information about quality and recommendations from Sign Plus. Bill Rose suggested getting a sample to see the thickness.

2) Chronicle interview:

Bill Rose reported that the Chronicle budgets space and time for different events and he missed the window for the Arboretum Kickoff. He will contact them about timing to schedule for a spring event.

Julie Lindquist suggested the Chronicle do an article on how the planted trees are progressing with before and after pictures.

3) Contact the Neighborhood Watch and Events FB Page through Monica Arbo:

Monica Arbo who is on the Rec Commission is the Administrator of this page (monitored for appropriate postings). Leslie Ricklin will meet with Helen Weingart and Rec Commission Chair Dave Stone to discuss postings for this page. Anne Sicilian will follow this page and post upcoming events for the Bicentennial.

4) Set up a Facebook page/coordinate with “I Live in Chaplin” through Nick Lucas:

Monica Arbo is also the Administrator of this page. Warren Church commented that posts on this page can generate many replies for publicity and will follow this page. Leslie Ricklin supports members posting on this page as well as reaching out to the community for suggestions.

d. Update on Town Play:

Warren Church sent a copy of the play to Doug Dubitsky and will follow up to see if his daughter is still interested in directing the play.

e. Input from other Town Commissions/Committees:

Leslie Ricklin and Bill Rose will draft a letter with the mission statement and suggested events and send to Town Agency Chairs to distribute to their Boards for input. Anne Sicilian reported that she reached out to the Rec Commission who is very supportive and excited about the celebration. Warren Church reported that historian Rachel McDonald will be the contact for the church, setup a booth and encourage painting the church. Sally Zimmerman who is very knowledgeable about grants found a grant for painting.

f. Walks and Talks; solicit feedback from announcement on Google Groups:

Leslie Ricklin reported that Kathy Smith is interested in doing a talk on quilts and Kayse Pellegrino is working on a garden and house tour. She also suggested a walk around the Arboretum Dedication. Warren Church suggested doing a walk a month in the Bicentennial year and can get the Trust to do 4 walks including Darling Pond, Diana’s Pool and Stone Walls. Anne Sicilian will do a children’s walk. Bill Rose will advertise on Google Groups for ideas in the spring.

g. Road and street beautification project:

Julie Lindquist sent photos to Dave Stone and suggested that the community can work independently and spread the word to clear vegetation to expose stone walls and bring them back to life. She also suggested posting a note in the Senior Center Newsletter. Bob Grindle will write an article on the Stone Walls of Chaplin for the Neighbors paper and include before and after photos.

h. Moving the Museum:

Bill Rose recommends and would like to pursue moving the Museum that is deteriorating due to not being used. The building should be preserved and has huge potential for quarterly or monthly displays of historic artifacts with different themes. The budget is approximately \$50,000 for basics to move the Museum near the Library, install a foundation and hookup power. Grants have been researched and money could be raised through fundraising or Go Fund Me. The project would need approval by the

Historic District Commission. Julie Lindquist expressed concerns with traffic if the Museum is moved near the Library and Senior Center. Leslie Ricklin suggested considering approval to move the Museum when the full Committee is present. Bill Rose will update the presentation for the Historic District Commission. Anne Sicilian reported there are historic items stored in the Library including old maps that could be sold as a fundraiser. Bill Rose suggested a silent auction for the items and reprinting the maps with matting to be done when they are sold.

i. Engagement of the schools:

Leslie Ricklin asked how to engage the schools and offered suggestions of having students do a parade and doing talks on the history of Chaplin. Warren Church suggested asking Donna Dufresne (retired from Chaplin Elementary) to see if she is interested in becoming involved in a project and directing the play if Doug Dubitsky's daughter is not able to. Anne Sicilian suggested talking to the Art teacher about students making a quilt. Bill Rose will contact Superintendent Henrici for direction. Warren Church suggested doing research on educational packets for the schools. Leslie Ricklin did research on school districts and found many had consolidated. Julie Lindquist suggested working with members of the Senior Center to create a timeline (would be a great Senior Project). Anne Sicilian reported that the Senior Capstone Project by Sandra Horning's son on the history of Chaplin is posted on the Library's website (would be a great talk event). Bill Rose reported that access to Town Hall for research is restricted and may have to wait until the pandemic eases up (a vaccine is on the way).

j. Yoga Class:

Angie Jacques is willing to do a Mega Yoga Class at Garrison Park on the day of the celebration. Bill Rose reported there would be a rain date.

k. Warren sharing articles with Bob:

Warren Church will meet with Bob Grindle to share archived articles from the Norwich Bulletin and Hartford Courant about Chaplin families and school districts that have been separated into different groupings.

7. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

Julie Lindquist was sworn in by Town Clerk Shari Smith. Shari Smith is in the process of cleaning out the vault and presented the Committee with a video of the 175th Celebration by John Meyers with a program guide.

8. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Update on the Bicentennial activities

9. DATE AND TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4pm.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (5:51 PM) was made by Anne Sicilian, seconded by Bob Grindle.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*