

Ad-Hoc Bicentennial Committee
SPECIAL MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
January 7, 2020
Chaplin Town Hall

Members Present: Anne Sicilian, David Shenker, Warren Church, Dick Weingart, Leslie Ricklin, Bob Grindle, and William Rose IV.

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 2:05pm. Mr. Rose stated that until they elect officers, he will Chair the meeting to start. This will be a sub-committee under the Board of Selectmen and must follow FOI (Freedom of Information Act) rules, i.e. posting agendas and minutes, elect officials on the committee, etc. The Town put aside a budget in CIP which is about \$5000.

- 2. Introduce members, discuss committee structure and elect officers:** Anne Sicilian nominated Leslie Ricklin for Chairman. Bob Grindle seconded the nomination. Ms. Ricklin accepted the nomination. All in favor. Mr. Grindle nominated Warren Church as co-chairman. Ms. Ricklin seconded the nomination. Mr. Warren accepts the nomination. All in favor. Mr. Grindle nominates Dick Weingart as Treasurer. Ms. Sicilian seconds the nomination. Mr. Weingart accepts the nomination. All in favor.

Leslie Ricklin took over as Chairman.

- 3. Review Mission Statement:** The mission statement was reviewed by the committee. Mr. Rose stated you can expand and modify as time goes on. Adding committee members was discussed, the Board of Selectmen would appoint them. The committee accepted the draft mission statement (see attached).

Mr. Church suggested having multiple events throughout the year and maybe one large event. Mr. Rose suggested talking to Dave Stone, DPW Supervisor, as he would be a good resource for holding different events and be the public works liaison.

- 4. Discuss potential activities for Bicentennial celebration.** Ms. Ricklin shared a packet from Rusty Lanzit when he was looking into this in 2012. Part of the packet showed what other towns did for their celebrations. Some items discussed – walking tour of Natchaug river, calendar of events, large event could be 200th night, fireworks, bonfire. Past residents can also be invited to attend. Mr. Rose read a petition from 3/25/1822 when the town was incorporated. Also discussed was reinstating a newsletter which the schools can get

involved in and to save on postage use Google Groups. Social media aka Facebook was discussed and what resources would be needed to maintain this. Mr. Rose also mentioned that when events are advertised via Facebook or Google Groups now, often the Chronicle will pick it up and advertise it. Mr. Church stated that there is currently a writing group at the Senior Center, and they can utilize them.

Town roads were discussed – they will research the history of the roads. The town used to have annual events on Chaplin Street, one being square dancing and maybe they can revive this. The committee agreed a street party is a great idea. Also discussed was river tubing and toy boat making to launch on the river, architectural walks with the possibly of audio history to listen to during the tour.

The committee would like to create a new logo for the celebration. The Chaplin librarian had the library logo redesigned by students and a donation was made to the class. Ms. Ricklin will start with the school and talk to the principal, also talk to Parish Hill. When the Town of Pomfret did this they added the celebration/history to the curriculum at school during that year.

Music was discussed, whether it be a town song or poem. The Coast Guard Jazz band was highly recommended. During the 175th celebration there was a float which can be done again. Also suggested were Chaplin races and wood chopping.

The following tasks were assigned to members:

- Ann Sicilian - reach out to 4-H and Girl Scouts and talk to Angie about yoga.
- Bob Grindle - talk to Linda Caron in Hampton about Boy Scouts and the races via Goodwin forest and he will reach out to Charlie Olbrias who lives in Chaplin and currently coordinates races. He will also talk to the Senior Center Director, Roxanne St. Jean, about getting involved.
- Warren Church - talk to church pastor, Roger Bolduc, Alex Hill and Rachel MacDonald. He will get information on the first town meeting on 7/4/1822.
- Leslie Ricklin - talk to Sandy Horning, Librarian, about graphic school doing logo.
- Bill Rose – talk to the residents who did the 175th anniversary celebration

The committee discussed funding and how it works, possibly do a memento plate, t-shirts, mugs, and hoodies. The committee will also reach out for a recording secretary for the meetings.

5. **Discuss tentative dates for Bicentennial celebration:** The committee will decide when big events will occur by using a master calendar. 9/10/22 is a day to lock in with fireworks company – this must be booked well in advance.

6. Discuss meeting dates, times, and locations: Next meeting March 3, 2020, 4:00pm, Chaplin Library.

7. Second audience for citizens: None

8. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned 3:48pm

Mission for the Chaplin Bicentennial Committee

Chaplin's bicentennial is a time to celebrate the 200 years our community has existed, to marvel, and reflect on the events of the **past** that have shaped our town and made it what it is. But it is also a time to reflect—not just on the past, but on the **future**. What direction do we want our town to go for the next 200 years? What is the path we want to chart for our children to follow as our forbearers did for us?

As we plan ways to celebrate this momentous birthday, let us be sure to be inclusive of every Chaplin resident not only to provide opportunities for all to participate, but also to contribute their energy and skills for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

The make-up of the Bicentennial Committee should reflect the mission by being as inclusive as possible in its members. To this end, every organization should be invited to send a representative to this committee who will, in turn, go back to his/her group to report, to encourage participation and develop a plan appropriate for them. The Committee, therefore, acts as a coordinator for all events, which could be planned over a 9-12-month period.