

CHAPLIN AD-HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
Chaplin, Connecticut
Chaplin Library Meeting Room
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2020

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Anne Sicilian, Dave Shenker, Bob Grindle (4:16 PM) and First Selectman Bill Rose. Unable to attend was member Dick Weingart.

Leslie Ricklin presented revised agenda with correct name of Committee and calendar for meetings.

2. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

3. REVISION OF THE MISSION STATEMENT:

Warren Church suggested the following revisions to the Mission Statement: reflect instead of planning on the future of the Town, invite town agencies to participate in celebration activities, planning and organization to be held in 2020-2021 with the actual celebration to take place in 2022.

Motion to accept revised Mission Statement with the possibility of future revisions, was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Anne Sicilian and carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

A. Progress on the Logo:

Leslie Ricklin and Warren Church will attend a graphics design class at ECSU for presentation on Town Logo designs that were done as a graded project. They will bring back 20 designs to the Committee for display and invite the public to vote on their favorite drawing. The Committee will select the winning design from the top three.

B. Arboretum, Commission come up with a name:

Leslie Ricklin presented Logo of a tree for the Arboretum developed by Amy Kalisher that will be dedicated at the Bicentennial. Arborist Dave Stone is overseeing a project to plant 20 native variety trees (hope to begin planting in the fall) over three years at Garrison Park. The project meets Sustainable CT that provides matching funds for projects. Funds can be spent on trees and limited printing and objects. Fundraising will include selling t-shirts and cups with the Logo as well as the opportunity to dedicate a tree or bench with the Logo in a person's name.

C. 4-H and Girl Scouts:

Anne Sicilian reported on 4-H and Girl Scouts. There are currently no Girl Scout troops in town. Suggestions for possible activities include: Yoga Group, Family Passport Program to different places in town to give young children opportunity to learn about the town, Nature Scavenger Hunt, and taking family photos at places visited to put on display. Warren Church suggested getting as many people as possible to sign up and assemble in their district for a picture taken with a drone on September 10th (Fireworks Display). He also suggested getting involved with school reunions for publicity.

D. Boy Scouts, Races in Goodwin Forest:

Bob Grindle reported on the Boy Scouts and Races. Chaplin and Hampton have a combined Boy Scouts troop. The Hampton Fall Festival is usually held on September 10th (would conflict with Bicentennial Fireworks Day) where the Boy Scouts do their Rope Bridge. Bill Rose reported that there is a dedicated Chaplin Troop run by Linda Caron. Warren Church reported that many racers (approximately 300)

from out of town show up for a sanctioned race. The 169 Club has runners who want to race in every town. He suggested coordinating with the already established Chaplin PTO for their 5K and will contact them regarding the date and naming it the Bicentennial Race. Joshua's Trust offers many organized walks. Anne Sicilian offered to do a walk for little children and suggested a Passport Program to encourage more participation. Other ideas for walks include: Natchaug Trail and Chaplin Street.

E. Chaplin Congregational Church:

Warren Church reported on the Chaplin Congregational Church. Pastor Roger Bolduc and Historian Rachel are not very active (they do try for a yearly Bed Race) but are interested in participating in the Bicentennial activities. Warren Church suggested a campaign be held to fund painting the building.

F. Talk with residents re: 175th Celebration:

Bill Rose reported on feedback from the 175th Celebration. There has not been much success due to faded memories and the passing of some participants. He has been searching through old documents in the Town Hall. Warren Church suggested looking at the large envelope in the Town Hall that contains information from the 150th Celebration. Leslie Ricklin suggested looking at two binders from the 150th Celebration that are in the Library.

G. Bicentennial memorabilia and souvenirs:

Dave Shenker reported on memorabilia and souvenirs. Once selected, the Logo can be sent to a company who will send back free samples for review. Suggested items with Logo for sale include: travel mugs, t-shirts, flags, sweatshirts and water bottles. Bill Rose suggested using a slide on sleeve with the Logo for travel mugs and obtain email preorders to help determine quantities. Leslie Ricklin suggested using Danielson Surplus. The Committee will start with 500 t-shirts and 100 mugs.

H. Bicentennial finances: No Report

Anne Sicilian left the meeting at 5:08 PM.

5. IDENTIFY RESOURCES:

• **People: Any recommendations for additional members:**

Kasey Pellegrino is interested in joining the Committee and would be a great asset for advertising through social media. Warren Church suggested contacting Alex Hill who knows the history of the church to join the Committee. Bill Rose will contact him.

• **Groups: Any we haven't identified, visiting other committees:** None at this time

• **Documents (such as Annual Town Reports, Minutes of Meetings, Chaplin Clipboard, Publications from 150th, 175th events):**

Leslie Ricklin reported on documents from the 150th and 175th events and suggested having Kasey Pellegrino possible rejuvenate the Chaplin Clipboard newsletter that could showcase the Committee's plans. She also presented booklet of tour and illustration of Ben Chaplin Town from 150th Celebration that could be updated with important events. Warren Church suggested having a student do a historical report with one or two paragraphs and include clips from articles by Rick Nichols. He also

reported that he was interviewed by Library Director Sandra Horning's son Gavin on the history of Chaplin for his Senior Capstone project at Parish Hill.

- **Artists, Craftspeople, Musicians in Chaplin:**

Warren Church suggested the following skilled Artisans in town be invited to participate: Weaver Peggy Church, Quilter Kathy Smith, Noted Artist Jane Collins, Musician Jack Collins and the Timber Team for woodworking presentation. A portion of Chaplin Street could be closed for Artisans to setup tables for display. Dave Shenker suggested having the Fire Department do a demonstration.

Bob Grindle left the meeting at 5:29 PM.

- **Sponsors:**

Warren Church suggested reaching out to businesses out of town for sponsors. Sponsors will also be needed for the Arboretum project.

6. IDENTIFY TOPICS FOR REPORTS SUCH AS:

Town Government, Cemeteries, Roads, Churches, Mills, Farms, Famous residents: Ben Chaplin & William Ross, Revive a Newsletter (Clipboard), 5 best vistas in Town (have a contest to create interest), 2022 Town Calendar, Town photograph via drone, Walking the trails in Chaplin, Contacting Parish Hill teachers about topics for senior projects, Scavenger Hunt (with intergenerational teams), Mega Yoga event, Bed Race.

7. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

8. TIME AND PLACE FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 4pm in the Chaplin Library Meeting Room.

9. ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (5:30 PM) was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Warren Church and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scot
Recording Clerk*