

**CHAPLIN BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**  
**Chaplin, Connecticut**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 29, 2020**

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Dick Weingart, Anne Sicilian, Bob Grindle and First Selectman Bill Rose. Unable to attend was member Kayse Pellegrino.

**3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:**

Julie Lindquist suggested clearing the stone walls from vines that include poison ivy and bittersweet for the Bicentennial walks. There are many properties in town that are outlined by stone walls which are a vital part of Chaplin history. She suggested using town employees or professional resources with this project. First Selectman Bill Rose responded that a contractor would need to be hired to spray to kill the roots to reduce resurgence and expressed concerns with allergies and herbicides. Burning is a short-term fix but not safe with the drought and could have quick resurgence. Julie Lindquist suggested starting with encouraging the community to clean up their own properties. She also suggested taking pictures during winter without snow and post on the website to showcase the beauty of the walls without vines. Leslie Ricklin suggested cleanup of litter could be done in conjunction with the stone wall cleanup project. Bob Grindle suggested road cleanup program similar to what is done in other towns such as Scotland, where town residents take responsibility for specific areas in town. Bill Rose will promote community pride.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2020:**

*Motion to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020, was made by Anne Sicilian, seconded by Warren Church and carried with one abstention by Bob Grindle.*

**5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Warren Church suggested starting soon on how to address publicity – add as Item #6d.
- Leslie Ricklin received a request for a Financial Report and questioned if needed this year with no budget in place. \$300 has been spent to date for the new Logo using town funds. Dick Weingart responded that the request is for the Annual Report that has a financial component if applicable and should include a brief summary of activities.

**6. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Town Historian:**

The Committee submitted an endorsement for Town Historian to the Board of Selectmen with no interest in the position to date. Leslie Ricklin suggested Alex Hill who has done research on the history of churches and works with the elementary schools.

**b. Bicentennial Arboretum – Kickoff event on Oct. 24 at 9am:**

The campaign drive for the Bicentennial Arboretum has been very successful raising donations of \$10,575 with a large portion matched. The Committee and their families are invited to attend the Kickoff Ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> year's planting at Garrison Park on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am (rain date is October 25<sup>th</sup>). 22 trees will be planted. The last planting will be done at the 2022 Dedication Ceremony on September 10<sup>th</sup> along with Fireworks and the Drone Community Photo. Dick Weingart expressed uncertainty regarding the number of people limited with the coronavirus restrictions. Bill

Rose reported that as of October 8<sup>th</sup> (Phase 3 reopening) the number of people allowed outside at a social/recreational gathering is 150.

**c. Update/comments on the list of activities that were sent to members:**

The Committee discussed the list of activities with the following comments/suggestions:

- Warren Church suggested clearing the trail down to the river for trail walks in the town forest (Garrison Trust) on South Bear Hill. This project is already in the works with Juan Sanchez and volunteers.
- Leslie Ricklin suggested talks at the Library could include: Kathy Smith for a talk about quilts and Sandra Horning's son Gavin for a talk about his Senior Project on Ben Chaplin's Will.
- Anne Sicilian will follow up with the 4-H for participation.
- The Committee was provided with a script for the Town Play. Warren Church will contact Doug Dubitsky's daughter who is interested in directing the play.
- Bob Grindle will follow up with the Boy Scouts on hosting a race in Goodwin Forest.
- Bill Rose reported that relocation of the museum is a long-term project that he will present to the Zoning Board for an 824 review. He will start a promotional campaign for the project that has received positive feedback.
- Leslie Ricklin reported that Kayse Pellegrino and Rusty Lanzit indicated they were interested in doing house/garden tours and suggested Jean Givens for a walking tour of Chaplin Street.
- Warren Church reported that Angie Jacques is interested in doing the Mega Yoga class and donations are encouraged to paint the church.

**d. Additional projects/events not listed:**

**Publicity:**

Warren Church suggested the following to publicize the proposed Bicentennial activities list to town residents to generate interest and participation:

- Get reporter to interview Leslie Ricklin for an article in the Chronicle (Bill will contact).
- Publish the list through the town email asking for feedback.
- Setup new Facebook Page through Kayse Pellegrino or use already established Facebook Page – I Live in Chaplin - through Nick Lucas.

Leslie Ricklin suggested the following:

- Involving various Town Commissions. Leslie Ricklin will present to the Library and Economic Development. Anne Sicilian will present to the Rec Commission. Bob Grindle will present to the Senior Center and suggested posting in their monthly newsletter. Dick Weingart will present to the Board of Finance. Bill Rose will present to the Board of Selectmen.
- Put a sign over the entrance to Town Hall to announce the Bicentennial Celebration. Bill Rose suggested using the big kiosk in the middle of the parking lot and possibly electronic sign that is pending grant approval. Bob Grindle suggested hanging pole banners with a catchy phrase to draw attention.
- Suggested contacting Ann Chuk for commemorative objects since Dave Shenker has resigned from the Committee (he will still be doing the fireworks).

Anne Sicilian suggested the following:

- Post the list on Google Groups to gauge interest in walks or talks.

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- Follow up with the school PTO who has a Facebook Page (previously receptive to helping with the 5K Race and Scavenger Hunt).
- Contact the Chaplin Neighborhood Watch & Events Facebook Page through Monica Arbo.

Bill Rose left the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Warren Church has numerous articles about Chaplin including District Schools and visits by famous people from the early 1900s and will share with Bob Grindle who is interested in writing monthly articles on the Chaplin Bicentennial for the Neighbors newspaper if accepted by the editor.

**7. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:**

Julie Lindquist commended the Committee for the very exciting momentum of the Bicentennial with fantastic ideas.

**8. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

- Publicity Update

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> tentatively at 4pm.

**9. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

***Motion to adjourn (7:47 PM) was made by Bob Grindle, seconded by Dick Weingart.***

***Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott  
Recording Clerk***