

**CHAPLIN AD-HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**  
**Chaplin, Connecticut**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**January 11, 2022**

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Dick Weingart, Anne Sicilian, Bob Grindle, Julie Lindquist, Bill Rose and Ann Lewis. Others present were First Selectman Juan Roman and Treasurer Diana Alvarez.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2021:**

***Motion to approve the minutes from December 14, 2021, was made by Bob Grindle with the following correction:*** Item #4f (pg. 2) should read – Warren Church spoke about trying to help get the church painted with only 20 members. ***The motion was seconded by Anne Sicilian and carried unanimously.***

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Warren Church – the play:** No update

**b. Anne Sicilian - “Celebrate Chaplin” poster activity:**

There hasn't been much activity with the posters (Anne will try something new to generate more interest). The Senior Center Director is planning a related activity.

**c. Bob Grindle – signage/posters:**

Gagnon Signs is finishing up the 3ft x 5ft sign for the island at the Town Hall. The sign (Bob's gift to the Committee) is very colorful in red/white/blue with “Celebrate Chaplin 1822-2022 and Save the Date (September 10<sup>th</sup>). Lawn signs in red/white/blue with Celebrate Chaplin 2022 would cost \$9.00 each for 20 (price drops for 50 for a cost under \$7.00 each – would cost more with different messages). The purpose of the signs is to let people know and spark interest about the Bicentennial (should be short and sweet). Julie Lindquist is pleased with the electronic sign that is in place and asked how people can find out more information (the electronic sign can refer people to the Facebook Page for more information and can announce upcoming events). Leslie Ricklin reported that the list of events was included in tax bills and that Bill Powers and Tracy Hastings did nice articles about the Bicentennial for the Chronicle.

- Dick Weingart presented budget update – As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, there is \$5,224 in the working fund (plus \$160 taken to the Town Hall by Leslie) and \$24,850 in the long-term account with an additional \$15,000 scheduled to be added in July.

Warren Church suggested getting extra signs to put up a week or two before each event and recommended heavy advertising for the big event and the play (Anne suggested using the sandwich board signs).

***Motion to expend up to \$400 for 50 lawn signs, was made by Bob Grindle, seconded by Dick Weingart and carried unanimously.***

**d. Julie Lindquist – receipt forms for soliciting ads, others report on who they've contacted for ads:**

Receipt forms are not needed (cancelled check would be the receipt). Julie presented each member with a booklet (4 pages copied from the 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration) to present to businesses to show what ads would look like. Leslie contacted Yankee Oil and Bob contacted Bagel One & Mackey's (all asked for more information). Warren asked the Committee to email him businesses they intend to contact to make sure there are no duplications. Ann Lewis asked who to make the checks out to (checks made out to Town of Chaplin with Chaplin Bicentennial in the memo line) and what to do if businesses want acknowledgement for their records. Diana Alvarez suggested a thank you letter on

the Town Letterhead with blank spaces for the name, amount and date (Julie will draft a letter for the next meeting).

**e. Bill Rose - Information about the Museum and the Parade:**

- 3 Drum & Fife Corps and 2 Pipe Bands are interested in participating in the parade (Joe Pinto will check on the Governor's Foot Guard). An outline will be drawn up including: who will participate and having floats (Bill suggested the parade be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> and to display the floats in the field after the parade for people to look at).
- Bill will do a presentation on the Museum at the February meeting of the Historic District Commission and ask to schedule a Public Hearing for discussion (the First Selectman is looking into updating costs).
- Leslie reported the following: Sandy Horning likes the idea of a section in the library for an exhibit with historical items from Chaplin (Kathy Smith's quilt commemorating Molly Hubbard is on display) and a Parish Hill teacher has a student that is interested in videotaping each of the Bicentennial talks.

**f. Leslie Ricklin - Tee shirts and other promotional material:**

Treasurer Diana Alvarez presented different items (designed with her husband) that could be used as a Bicentennial fundraiser besides T-shirts. Sample items included: fleece vest (long-sleeve also available), carry bag and blanket throw with embroidery done by Alumni Sports in Willimantic. Items would be preordered with many sizes and colors available (Diana will bring a price list and order form for the next meeting). Bob Grindle asked where people could get information on these items (anything at the Alumni Sports store would be available to order). Julie suggested having sign-up sheets at the Town Hall, Library and Senior Center. Dick Weingart asked how to capitalize on Diana & Izzy's expertise (Diana volunteered to organize this fundraiser).

- Bob Grindle and First Selectman Juan Roman left the meeting at 5pm.

Leslie Ricklin presented sample of very soft T-shirt and price list from Danielson Surplus. She suggested starting with 500 shirts in Kelly Green as a symbol of the Arboretum with 3 illustrations in white (Celebrate Chaplin 1822-2022 on the front, Arboretum logo on the sleeve and copy of map that will be sold on the back). The cost of the shirts is \$6.00 each up to size XL, \$9.25 each for 2X and \$10.50 each for 3X. The T-shirts could be sold at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> play, the September 10<sup>th</sup> event and at the walks and talks (Ann will post the design on the Facebook Page and Google Groups). Warren Church suggested starting with 100 T-shirts. Julie Lindquist suggested having everything done by order sheet and make one big order to Danielson Surplus. Diana Alvarez suggested pushing as much as possible online prior to each event and to start with the following: 10-small, 20-medium, 20-large and 20-xlarge. Leslie will order 100 T-shirts from Danielson Surplus. A stack of assorted sizes (per recommendation by Diana) will be available for sale in the three locations similar to the Calendar and will be reordered when they sell out (Anne volunteered to collect the money).

***Motion to appropriate up to \$750 for the purchase of specified T-shirts, was made by Dick Weingart, seconded by Bill Rose and carried unanimously.***

**g. Ann Lewis – update on Facebook page:**

The Facebook Page is going well with about 70 followers (hoping to expand). The date was corrected for the 1<sup>st</sup> talk that was postponed (the First Selectman asked for 30-day notice for any messages for the electronic sign). The article by Bill Powers posted with a photo from the calendar received good comments (will use other photos from the calendar to draw more attention). There is lots of action on the "Growing Up in Chaplin" page with a photo from the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Dick Weingart – discuss costs for the Sept. 10 event. What is the Recreation Commission paying for and what is the Bicentennial Committee paying for?**

Dick Weingart reported that Dave Stone (on behalf of the Rec Commission) wants to talk about who is paying for what for the September 10<sup>th</sup> event (Dick volunteered to be the liaison with the Rec Commission and will attend their next meeting).

**b. Warren Church - new topic for a talk - origin of town names:**

Contact has been made with a descendant of Ben Chaplin from Colorado who is into Chaplin Genealogy (will send him a calendar). Ann Lewis reported that Terry Collins has been following the Bicentennial Facebook Page (Warren confirmed was the same person). Warren has found a lot of information for his talk (will schedule a date in February).

Leslie Ricklin will check with the First Selectman regarding response from Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz on attending the September 10<sup>th</sup> event and ask who would be inviting the leaders from the three towns that helped form Chaplin (Leslie is willing to do as the Chair).

Julie Lindquist asked for more calendars (Leslie will order 25) and asked about reserving the church space for the play (not an issue per Warren).

Warren Church will arrange a separate meeting as soon as possible with Leslie Ricklin and Director Sydney Dubitsky to discuss the play.

**6. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:**

The next meeting will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>

- All items from this agenda
- Fundraiser from Diana Alvarez

**7. ADJOURN:**

***Motion to adjourn (5:46 PM) was made by Dick Weingart, seconded by Julie Lindquist.***

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