

CHAPLIN BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chaplin, Connecticut

Remote Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

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

The Committee welcomed Sydney Dubitsky who will be directing the First Town Meeting Play for the Bicentennial as a nice way to give back to the town she grew up in. She is a Theater Major at UCONN with a concentration on directing.

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021:

Motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2021, was made by Anne Sicilian, seconded by Bob Grindle and carried unanimously.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

6. REPORTS ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FROM JANUARY MEETING:

a. Bob Grindle - Banner, Articles:

Bob Grindle presented information on the Banner and Articles. There is nothing new to report on the banner and signage. There will be an article every other month in the Neighbors and Senior Center Newsletter. Any ideas should be emailed to him. There will be an article on Stone Walls (previously suggested by Julie Lindquist to uncover vine covered walls to display their beauty) and will include photographs. Warren Church reported there are a number of walls on the Alexander property that needs to be cleaned up (usually get help from UCONN students). Kayse Pellegrino has walls behind her property associated with the Mills on the River and offered to meet to walk the property when the weather improves.

b. Warren Church - First Town Meeting Play & Date: July 2, 2022, walks:

Warren Church presented information on the Play that will be held on July 2, 2022. Sydney Dubitsky has agreed to be Director. They discussed possible changes including inviting representatives from the three towns (Windham, Hampton, Mansfield) that made it possible to form the Town of Chaplin. They also discussed having other events for the same day including: reading of a Bicentennial Poem by the Poet Laureate and a concert performed by the Babcock Band from Ashford after the play and on September 10th. A program is needed for the play and other events and would be a perfect place for sponsors. Sydney Dubitsky will begin the process by reviewing the script for any additions or changes, look at the space to see how it will work and casting. A timeline will be presented at the next meeting.

c. Julie Lindquist – Calendar:

Julie Lindquist emailed information on the Calendar to each member of the Committee. It will have 13 photos (Cover plus 12 months) with gratitude to Victor Boomer for the photos. Printing costs could be

covered through advertising and sponsors. Solicitations would need to be monitored to avoid duplications. Personal knowledge of a merchant is preferable. Julie Lindquist is interested in working on sponsors and being the pass-through person. Warren Church suggested a Sub-Committee to come up with a plan for sponsors that could be included on a printed playbill and a brochure for the September 10th events. He feels the Calendar should be a piece of art and not be cluttered with sponsors. Any dates established for events should be emailed to Leslie or Julie.

d. Anne Sicilian - School outreach:

Anne Sicilian presented information on School Outreach. The Principal at Chaplin Elementary was presented with possible ideas to get teachers involved. They will be presented to the staff on their Professional Development Day that is coming up soon. She also offered to help with any projects. Ideas include: Art – do a mural, Music – do a song about Chaplin, Writing - write about what's happening now in their lives. Leslie Ricklin suggested singing the song about Chaplin on September 10th and will follow up with Parish Hill (she had contacted them previously). She also reported that the Bill Rose had talked to the Superintendent who was excited about participating (Anne Sicilian will follow up). Kayse Pellegrino is friends with the Art Teacher at Parish Hill and will follow up and suggested doing a mural on a Town building. Julie Lindquist suggested making a historical quilt.

e. Dick Weingart - Budget (this might also be a good time for the Committee to discuss Sponsors and how to find them):

Julie Lindquist asked about funds for various expenses. Leslie Ricklin reported there is a line item in the budget for the Bicentennial. Warren Church commented that the budget is for big items such as the Fireworks and associated activities and it is always good to reach out to sponsors. Julie Lindquist suggested keeping in mind that funds are needed to purchase items for fundraisers.

f. Leslie Ricklin - library talks, obtaining copies:

Leslie Ricklin presented information on Library Talks and Obtaining Copies and commended Shari Smith for her work in obtaining copies of Chaplin's founding documents from the State Library dropbox. There are 13 pages that will be printed and displayed in the Library. Library talks will include: Ben Chaplin's Will by Sandra Horning's son, Ruth Snow Bowen Quilts by Kathy Smith plus another with Bruce Raymond that involves photography. Warren Church reported that there are many photos and documents with historical information advertised on the I Was Brought Up in Chaplin Facebook page. He spoke to Alex Hill who is very interested in town history and has agreed to accumulate documents. A handwritten book on Chaplin history by his father will be dictated and printed. The Library will be open for the events on July 2nd and September 10th.

g. Dick, Warren, Leslie – September 10, 2022 event with Rec Commission:

A meeting was held with the Rec Commission to discuss the Bicentennial events (see minutes from January 28, 2021). The main event will be held at Garrison Park on September 10, 2022 with a rain date of September 11, 2022. Events will include a Drone Town Photograph, Town Yoga, Music by Local Bands and the Ukulele Group, Arboretum Dedication, Fireworks and hoping for a Master of Ceremonies.

h. Kayse – house tours date July 2, 2022, garden tours:

Kayse Pellegrino presented information on House and Garden Tours that will be held on July 2, 2022 leaning toward a set of specific times. The tour will include a map with details and locations for people who want to go off on their own. The next step is to find people who might be interested in hosting a tour. Anne Sicilian suggested posting on the Chaplin Quiet Corner page and Growing Up in Chaplin page to gauge interest. Leslie Ricklin suggested Kayse contact Jean Givens (an Art Historian) to do a walk on Chaplin Street and help with what houses that might be approachable.

7. CONTINUE WORK ON THESE PROJECTS (ARE THERE OTHER PROJECTS NEEDED TO FOCUS ON?):

The Committee will continue working on the above projects. Kayse Pellegrino suggested doing a photo contest similar to what is done at County Fairs that could be opened up to traditional artisan and crafting (pottery, weaving, basket making, quilts) with different categories to enter. It would be a great way to get the community involved. Warren Church talked to Darcy Rose who has agreed to do a Woodchopping Demo (she belongs to group at UCONN) and suggested a bicycle tour (could tag onto Thread City Cyclers annual event or develop an event to visit historic sites and hills in town).

8. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

9. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

All the items from Item 6.

10. DATE AND TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9th at 4pm.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (5:27 PM) was made by Kayse Pellegrino, seconded by Warren Church and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*