

CHAPLIN AD-HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chaplin, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2021

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Dick Weingart, Anne Sicilian and Bob Grindle. Unable to attend were members Julie Lindquist and First Selectman Bill Rose.

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2021:

Motion to approve the minutes from June 8, 2021, was made by Dick Weingart, seconded by Anne Sicilian and carried unanimously.

5. DISCUSS: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 EVENTS AT GARRISON PARK:

- **Town-wide Yoga Class @ 11:00**
- **Opening Ceremony (First Selectman, Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz) @ 2:00**
- **Dedication of Arboretum @ 3:00**
- **Drone Photo @ 4:00**
- **Fireworks @ 8:00**
- **Poet Laureate**

Discussion was held regarding when to schedule the Poet Laureate to read her poem at the Bicentennial celebration. Suggestions included: read poem to lead into the opening ceremony (Bob), before the play for a bigger audience (Warren), doing both (Dick), before the fireworks (Leslie) – might be too distracting for kids and families (Anne). Leslie Ricklin will bring to the Library Board for their recommendation. The library is hosting a reception on September 10th of this year at 6:30pm to welcome new Poet Laureate Adelaide Northrup.

Dick Weingart expressed concerns with not enough time between the Dedication of Arboretum and the Drone Photo. Bob Grindle suggested doing the photo before the Dedication of the Arboretum. Colored cards could be used to identify location for people to assemble for the Drone Photo (Anne). People could be greeted with the colored cards as they enter (Leslie). Could expect 50% of the 2300 residents to participate in the photo with the right advertising (Warren). The Rec Commission will mark out the field with an outline of the town and a river going through it. Dick Weingart reported that the town owned drone can only be used by a licensed drone operator with the proper permits in place (Leslie will check on). Bob Grindle reported that there is a licensed drone operator from Hampton who has done a great job with the Memorial Day parade and will follow up. Change to the tentative schedule is to do the Opening Ceremony at 2pm, Dedication of Arboretum at 2:30pm and Drone Photo at 3pm back-to-back. Assembly for the photo could be announced immediately following the Dedication of the Arboretum (Leslie).

Leslie Ricklin presented Bicentennial Walks & Talks Calendar (thanks to the two Library student interns) that will be displayed at the library. Bob Grindle suggested publicity begin for the Bicentennial after the Poet Laureate Reception in September this year. The first activity is a talk in January 2022 on Ben Chaplin's Will that ties in with the Founding Documents. Anne Sicilian suggested posting them on the town website.

6. REPORT ON MEETING WITH BILL ROSE AND LESLIE RICKLIN ABOUT INVITING LT. GOV. BYSIEWICZ:

Leslie Ricklin reported that a letter will be drafted and signed by herself and the First Selectman inviting Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz to the Bicentennial Celebration.

7. REPORTS ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS CONTINUED FROM JUNE MEETING:

a. Dick Weingart – Procedure for paying for expenses for the Bicentennial (Founding Documents cost \$150.00 incl. framing the Chaplin map):

Dick Weingart presented draft Policy and Procedure for Payment or Reimbursement of Expenditures. Leslie Ricklin presented mounted copies of the original Founding Documents and framed Chaplin Map and reported that the transaction with the town credit card went smoothly. Dick Weingart understood the credit card to be limited to a few vendors such as Staples, Walmart and Home Depot for tax exempt purchases and will check on.

b. Warren Church – Updates on the Play:

Director Sydney Dubitsky will begin work on the play in January. Will reach out to her to see if any help is needed such as with casting or costumes and get feedback on suggested changes to the skit. Bob Grindle suggested using local casting and students from UCONN. Leslie Ricklin suggested Warren meet with Sydney at the church where the play will be held. Anne Sicilian suggested this project could be used for college credit.

c. Bob Grindle – Update on Banners/Signs, date to begin posting signs

A sign will be needed at the entrance to Town Hall on the day of September 10, 2022 (Leslie). Sign Plus does a great job with signs but they are expensive and will check with the town on their preferred sign vendor and email ideas with cost estimates to Leslie before the next meeting (Bob). The new Electronic Sign is in the works and may be in place by the end of this year (Dick). Anne Sicilian would like to put a sign up now announcing that the Bicentennial is coming but is not able to access the bulletin board in the island at the Town Hall due to mailboxes mounted to both ends (Leslie will check with the First Selectman). There is a new kiosk sign board at the entrance to the park (Dick).

d. Julie – Update Garden Tour and email correspondence with Sue Peifer:

Leslie Ricklin reported that Garden Tours will not be held due to lack of interest.

e. Fundraising Projects – Members Discuss Costs/Sponsors re: printing the Calendar, framing the Founding Documents, banner(s), programs for the Play, T-shirts (should we start working on these?):

Fundraising Projects - getting close to print the Calendar, Programs for the Play that will include sponsors and should start working on T-shirts (Leslie). An updated map of the Arboretum that was included with the tax bills needs to have descriptions added for children (Leslie). Anne Sicilian suggested added information for children to the QR Codes that will be used on the trees and will follow up with Dave Stone.

Sponsors - need to be lined up (Warren), need to know the cost and what it's going to (Bob). Dick Weingart met with Rusty Lanzit who volunteered to solicit sponsors with a booklet of photos. 1,000 copies will be printed at \$2 each with some copies given to local businesses to handout as a way to advertise (Rusty will be the contact person). 8 single sheets front and back would sell for \$50 for 1/8th of a page for businesses or individuals to advertise and would be inserted or attached permanently to

the booklet. Warren Church suggested a subcommittee meet with Rusty to iron out the details (Warren & Dick volunteered).

Calendars - print 200 Calendars to sell and can print more if needed (Warren), find out the cost (Leslie will meet with Julie and check with Gulemo Printers - Dick will check to see if Gulemo is an approved printer).

T-shirts – The Rec Commission uses Danielson Surplus for T-shirts and would need a logo to determine the cost (Anne), could do the town outlined in black with the river and “Celebrate Chaplin 1822 - 2022” (Bob), could do a blue t-shirt outlined in white with the river (Anne), need to decide colors, sizes and quantities (Leslie will check with the Rec Commission and Danielson Surplus).

- f. **It’s been suggested to ask the State Historian, Walt Woodward to speak during the Bicentennial:** Discussion was held on having State Historian Walt Woodward speak during the Bicentennial. He is very entertaining (sings, plays the guitar, has written a book about CT history - Anne). Many programs are offered by the Library and Senior Center who sends out 400 Newsletters (Bob). He could talk about how Chaplin was developed or interesting facts about Chaplin (Leslie), or about the attitude from the three towns that formed Chaplin on giving up their land (Bob). Leslie Ricklin will follow up with the Library Director.

8. CONTINUE WORK ON THESE PROJECTS. ARE THERE OTHER PROJECTS WE NEED TO FOCUS ON? IS THERE ANYONE/PEOPLE WE WANT TO INVITE?

Anne Sicilian suggested getting children and the community involved by making posters to celebrate Chaplin and display them on September 10th. She will draft a plan for the project for the next meeting.

9. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Update on Sponsors from meeting with Rusty Lanzit
- Update on T-shirts
- Poster Project

Anne Sicilian suggested checking with the town on their preferred printer.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on August 10th at 4pm.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (5:10 PM) was made by Bob Grindle, seconded by Dick Weingart and carried unanimously.

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