

CHAPLIN AD-HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
Chaplin, Connecticut
Special Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Dick Weingart, Anne Sicilian, Julie Lindquist, Bob Grindle (4:55) and First Selectman Bill Rose. Others present was Juan Roman.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021:

Motion to approve the minutes from September 14, 2021, was made by Anne Sicilian with the following corrections: Item #4d – add name of the class of 2022 UCONN student intern - Dan Drainville. Add name of the booklet that the Committee was going to solicit businesses for ads - The Historic Houses of Chaplin Street. *The motion was seconded by Warren Church and carried unanimously.*

4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Dick Weingart - Update on Budget (incl. calendars sold, list of projected activities with costs):

The Committee was presented with list of projected activities and costs for the Bicentennial.

Calendars - budget of \$550 (as of Thursday 44 purchased for a total of \$440). **Events/Activities** – Library Events, Play, Fireworks & Costs - budget of \$15,000 (will clarify), Photograph by Drone.

Exhibits – Poster activity, Historical documents - budget of \$140 (cost \$140 to mount founding documents and map). **Parade. Publicity** – Banners, Signs, Radio, Newspaper. **Supplies. T-Shirts.**

b. Bill Rose – letter inviting Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz to the Sept. 10, 2022 event:

A draft letter inviting Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz to the Sept 10th event was presented at the last meeting. Letters are being drafted for other dignitaries and all will be sent out next week.

c. Anne Sicilian - “Celebrate Chaplin” Poster Activity:

Anne Sicilian presented flyer with guidelines and entry form for the “Celebrate Chaplin” Poster Activity. A copy was sent to the Art Teacher at the elementary school who is on board with the project. The principal will be contacted regarding sending home flyers with the students. The library and Senior Center will take any posters submitted and a poster activity is planned for the seniors. Bill Rose offered the Town Hall for drop off as well. The flyer would be advertised on Facebook (Chaplin Neighborhood Watch and I Was Brought Up in Chaplin) and on Googlegroups (Anne would like to start the project right away). Dick Weingart suggested defraying the cost of poster supplies for the schools in the budget (Anne will check on the costs).

Motion to approve flyer for Celebrate Chaplin Poster Activity to go out to as many places as possible in Chaplin, was made by Anne Sicilian, seconded by Julie Lindquist and carried unanimously.

d. Bob Grindle/Leslie Ricklin - banners/signs, Date to begin posting signs?

The Art Teacher and Alex Hill made a large poster for the glass case in the island at the Town Hall Parking Lot to display Bicentennial events. Anne Sicilian suggested adding one activity as it happens to make it easier to read. Julie Lindquist suggested reinforcing the poster with a backer board. Bill Rose suggested using brighter colors for future posters, presented a waterproof ‘Happy Birthday Chaplin’ banner found at the Town Hall and asked for support at the Public Hearing this Thursday for an Electronic Message Board to post Bicentennial events. Dick Weingart suggested yard signs similar to the candidate signs to announce the Bicentennial and suggested making the 2022 on any future signs as big as possible. Discussion was held regarding when to begin posting signs.

Motion to begin posting signs as soon as possible, was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Warren Church and carried unanimously.

e. Julie Lindquist – discuss costs/sponsors; Rusty Lanzit booklet:

Leslie Ricklin spoke to Rusty Lanzit regarding the Historic Homes Booklet that continues to be given out for free (there are many booklets out in the community). The Committee's focus should be on the Bicentennial so it was proposed for him to contact the Historic District Commission for adoption of the booklet (Rusty offered to give 20 copies to the Historic District Commission). It was also suggested to have copies available at the Town Hall and Library.

Discussion was held regarding sponsors with the play program as the main venue for fundraising. Warren Church suggested a primary emphasis on the Sept. 10th program for sponsors. Julie Lindquist suggested using sponsors for the main event and contributors for the play (needs to be clear with categories). Bill Rose suggested adding stuffers (similar to what used for the Arboretum) to the January tax bills in addition to Googlegroups and the Newspaper to solicit individual sponsors. Warren Church suggested making the process simpler by listing sponsors (name and company) with sponsor levels that would save on costs and designs. Dick Weingart suggested contacting Gulemo Printers for advice and practicality of sponsors (Julie will contact). Julie Lindquist reported that she will be meeting with the Chronicle to discuss their plan to help with advertising costs (Dick and Bob are interested in attending). Warren Church expressed concerns with dragging on the subject of sponsors and stressed the need to start approaching businesses (will be coordinated by the Subcommittee).

Bob Grindle arrived at the meeting at 4:55 PM.

f. Leslie Ricklin – T-shirt design presented:

The Committee was presented with two possible designs of the Arnold Prince painting for the front of the T-shirt and the Arboretum logo for the sleeve. A sample two-tone T-shirt with contrasting sleeves was also presented. Bob Grindle suggested a better quality is worth the cost. The prints may have too much detail to duplicate on the T-shirt so the Committee decided to have "Chaplin Bicentennial" with the dates 1822-2022 for the front.

g. Warren Church – updates on the play:

Warren Church is trying to communicate with the Director about the importance of starting now on the play with many decisions that need to be made.

h. Publicity – Besides signs, what venues should we start exploring for publicity – Radio, newspaper, town website, Googlegroups, other?

Leslie Ricklin has contacted the Wayne Norman Show and is waiting for a response. A meeting will be held on Thursday at 4pm with Chronicle reporter Tracy Hastings to promote the Bicentennial. Information about the Calendar will be posted on Googlegroups.

Bob Grindle reported that he is expecting a quote today from Gagnon Signs for a poster with the town logo and list of events. He asked if the poster made by the Art Teacher could be made smaller (might

be too big for the display case and could be displayed elsewhere) and asked about yard signs similar to the election signs that would catch people’s attention. They could be used to announce upcoming events and are available from Gagnon Signs (Bob will check on).

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Garden/Farm Tour:

Julie Lindquist discussed garden tours with Helen Weingart regarding timing that can be difficult. CSA Farmer Kelly Caisse is interested in showing her gardens. Anne Sicilian expressed the importance of a leader for this project (no interest currently).

b. Parade:

Julie Lindquist reported the Irelands may be interested in a parade (they did a drive by at the Tag Sale). Bill Rose offered to talk to Joe Pinto about organizing a parade with floats that needs travel clearance and permits. Warren Church suggested holding the parade on one of the big weekends (Reenactment in July or main event in September).

c. Chaplin Bicentennial Family Photograph Project:

Leslie Ricklin presented proposal for Family Photograph Project inspired by Anne Sicilian to get more people involved. The project would capture what people looked like, where they lived and what they liked to do in 2022 for future generations. Families (about 700 in town) would be asked to go outside and take a selfie of their family in front of their home or favorite spot in Chaplin (such as Garrison Park or Diana’s Pool) and send to a designated digital dropbox. Photos could be copied to a disc and could be printed for a binder to display at Garrison Park on Sept. 10th. They would become part of the town’s archive of the Bicentennial for anyone to access. Julie Lindquist expressed concerns with security. Anne Sicilian expressed concerns with the cost for printing the photos. Bill Rose suggested having a rolling picture screen instead of printing (could setup in the park at the main event – Bob).

6. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Updates on current agenda items.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (5:37 PM) was made by Julie Lindquist, seconded by Dick Weingart and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*