

**CHAPLIN AD-HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**  
**Chaplin, Connecticut**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**December 14, 2021**

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2021:**

***Motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2021, was made by Bob Grindle with the following corrections:*** Item #3 should read – (the January meeting is the same day as the first talk). Item #3 – correct the date of the January meeting to January 11 (no conflict with the first talk on January 12<sup>th</sup>). Item #4a should read – Warren Church presented Bicentennial Sponsorship Program proposal to solicit sponsors from commercial businesses (local and area), from local organizations that serve Chaplin, and from individuals. Item #4a – correct the name of the First Town Meeting Playbook. Item #4d – change the period at the end of the first line to a colon. Item #5a should read – Warren Church suggested the “I Was Brought Up in Chaplin” Facebook Page. ***The motion was seconded by Anne Sicilian and carried unanimously.***

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Dick Weingart – budget update:** No update

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

The poster activity was posted on the Facebook Page with no submissions so far. There were plans to send home a flyer for Christmas but students are home (the Art Teacher plans to do as an activity). Will post to Google Groups after the New Year. Leslie Ricklin asked for a presentation at the Senior Center (the Director plans to do as an activity - Anne will follow up). She also expressed concerns with the alarming number of Covid cases in Chaplin and the Committee will have to consider whether to hold the presentations in the library or virtually through Zoom (Warren suggested postponing, Ann suggested checking with the presenters).

**c. Bob Grindle – signage/posters:**

Bob Grindle spoke about waiting until the electronic sign is completed before considering other signs (sign is up with training being done on how to use it). The cost of posters goes up quickly having them printed (3ft. x 5ft. poster from Gagnon Signs is \$250). The electronic sign should help get the word out for the Bicentennial Celebration and will also be used for other events. Ann Lewis spoke about the flyers going out with the tax bills that should bring in a lot of people and suggested adding color to the flyers (is there a resource for a graphics designer). Bob Grindle suggested a computer program (Hampton Democratic Town Committee uses) that allows you to create multi-colored 8-1/2” x 11” flyers that could be posted at several businesses in town including the library and the Post Office. Leslie Ricklin expressed concerns with nothing being posted at the Town Hall. Anne Sicilian suggested a banner with “Chaplin Bicentennial 2022” for the case in the middle of the parking lot (Bob will follow up with Gagnon Signs for a 3ft. x 5ft. banner with black letters).

**d. Advertising update, sponsorship in programs:**

Warren Church presented list of potential sponsors with who would approach them. The Committee was asked to add to the list and return to Warren as soon as possible (will collate so there are no duplicates). Leslie Ricklin will contact Yankee Oil Company, Anne Sicilian will contact Green Valley Tree, Ann Lewis will contact Willard’s and Hampton Remodeling, Bob Grindle will contact Hampton Hill Garage and Mackey’s. The Committee is raising funds to help defray the costs

with sponsors buying advertising space in the program booklets and playbills for the Bicentennial activities including: Fireworks, the Play and T-shirts. The costs for the ads are \$50 for an 1/8 page, \$100 for a ¼ page, \$200 for a ½ page and \$500 for a full page. Approaching sponsors can start now with checks made out to the Town of Chaplin with Bicentennial Committee written in the memo line. The Sponsorship Program will be posted on the Facebook Page.

**e. Bill Rose - Information about the Museum:** No Report

**f. Warren Church - update re: the play:**

Director Sydney Dubitsky wants to begin organizing for the play after the New Year. Will need to begin as soon as possible with a lot of work to be done including getting volunteers (the play is an important part of the Bicentennial). Julie Lindquist asked if use of the space at the church is in writing. Warren Church spoke about trying to help get the church with 20 members painted. They can't afford it and the town can't help them. A meeting was held with a consultant with Pastor Bolduc present, to discuss getting a grant for painting. An architectural study needs to be done to show what the overall cost is to maintain the building before getting a grant. The consultant suggested getting cost estimate for the roof. Pastor Bolduc estimates \$60,000 to paint the church (would be responsible for \$30,000 with matching grant). The church should consider setting up a non-profit organization to take over the property and rent out the building to the church. Julie Lindquist recommended getting a written agreement between the Committee and Pastor Bolduc to use the church (a written agreement is appropriate once a decision is made on how the church will be used). The church is a big part of Chaplin history. Leslie Ricklin suggested inviting Sydney to the next meeting in January (Warren will extend an invitation).

**g. Bill Rose, Leslie Ricklin - Tee shirts and other promotional material:**

Leslie Ricklin presented beautiful maps of Chaplin that will be sold and sample Artist in the Country t-shirts from Ann Chuk in different colors that can be transposed with photos. Julie Lindquist presented a standard t-shirt as another option (a design will show up well). Discussion was held on the following regarding the t-shirts: Danielson Surplus strongly urged having one shirt with one color and one style, limited sizes (primarily being sold as memento of a historical event), offer two options to choose from (one plain and one with a design), Bicentennial Logo (the town has a logo with many colors that would be too costly to print), need for a graphic artist consultant, have "Celebrate Chaplin's Bicentennial 1822-2022" on the front and map of Chaplin (referenced earlier) on the back, Arboretum logo for the sleeve, short-sleeved to keep the cost down (will check on the cost for long sleeve), use softer colors such as light blue or green, raising the cost of advertising to offset the cost of more options (can get more businesses to sponsor by keeping the cost reasonable, consulting someone that understands marketing to advise on pricing), Leslie Ricklin will check with Danielson Surplus to see if they can reduce the size of the map and see how it will look.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Ann Lewis nominated by the BOS to be a member of the Committee, she will manage the Bicentennial Facebook page with Anne Sicilian's assistance, Update on this project:**

The Committee was presented with the Facebook Page named "Chaplin CT Bicentennial Celebration 2022" that is growing and reached 169 people last week.

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

Research is being done on the origin of town names for a talk by Warren that will be tentatively held in the spring. Historically, where did the names come from: Tower Hill Road (where is the tower),

Diana's Pool (who is Diana), many roads are obvious with someone living on the road, and Bedlam Rd (has a good story). Will take pictures and post the photos and history on the Facebook Page.

**c. Leslie Ricklin – Photographs of town committees and commissions for the historical record:**

The photos of families in Chaplin project will be replaced by photos of town committees and commissions for a legacy of the Bicentennial of who was here and what they did for the town. Bob Grindle suggested using the Annual Report for names and include the photos in the September 10<sup>th</sup> program. Warren Church suggested also including photos of the houses in the Chaplin Historic District.

**6. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

- Parade (Ann will post to the Facebook Page asking for volunteers and anyone interested). Joe Pinto is very excited about the parade and has contacted the Governor's Foot Guard to participate. He will be asked about the Poet Laureate reciting a poem at the next Tree Lighting (the last event of the Bicentennial).
- Follow up on Advertising
- Receipt Forms
- Budget Update
- Facebook Page Update
- Poster Activity
- Signage/Posters Update
- Information on the Museum
- Play Director Sydney Dubitsky
- Date for Origin of Town Names project

A message was relayed from Library Director Sandy Horning regarding the owner that purchased the old library who is having it cleaned out. A World War I flag was found in not very good condition and is the 5<sup>th</sup> flag in a series of 5 that is somewhat rare. The flag will be restored and donated to the library.

Warren Church asked if the library will have a historical corner (Leslie will check on). Julie Lindquist spoke about the old cupboard from the old library being restored and hopes it will be ready for the Bicentennial.

Julie Lindquist asked about response to invitation from Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz (no response yet), inviting representatives from the three towns that formed Chaplin (will be invited to the play and the September 10<sup>th</sup> event) and receipt form for sponsors (Julie will bring a sample form to the next meeting)

**7. ADJOURN: *Motion to adjourn (5:31 PM) was made by Bob Grindle, seconded by Julie Lindquist.***

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