

BELLINGHAM 300th ANNIVERSARY

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2018; 6:30-8:00; Bellingham Library Community Room

FACEBOOK:

- currently at 230 members
- anybody currently on the page can invite others, but admin will monitor who is on it
- admin can also shut down conversations if they are questionable or unsavory
- useful to share information, tidbits, stories, etc.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Bernadette Rivard: treasurer; handles all main and sub-committee funds; access to town accounting software
- Sarah Houle: secretary; minutes, agendas, and archives

BIG VISION:

1 year celebration to celebrate everything great in Bellingham.

Some events that are confirmed:

- Applied for MA Board of Library grant for \$15,000; recipients will be announced in July, 2018; large piece of this would go towards a Belling History Since 1969 book after the anniversary events so it can include the information
- New Years Eve celebration: Dinner dance at the Coachman's; selectmen are supportive; details to follow next month
- 300 Club: Raising groups of 300 different items monthly in different locations; (peanut butter, pasta, mittens, socks, etc.); take pictures of the growing piles; 12 months of giving to local charities and organizations
- Trolley tour & pub crawl: north to south in local establishments for small fee
- 30th birthday of library: September celebration to commemorate 30 years in town
- Videoed historical commission tours: Old Town Hall, First Baptist Church, etc.
- Historical Documentation at Library:
 - Traveling exhibits in conjunction with historical commission
 - town-wide "read a book" about 17th century New England
 - "scan your historical photos" day in conjunction with Umass Boston's MA Memories Roadshow
 - Digital Commonwealth to share historical content online with other towns
 - publishing Bellingham History Since 1969 (cost \$11 each; sell for \$20 each)

Other Proposals:

- (Adam Thorell:) Old Home Days: 2-3 day weekend of all events you can think of; run by town organizations and businesses; sports tournaments; local organizations run games; parade; 5K fun run; fireworks; touch a truck; bouncy village; restaurant row; craft village; stage with magician, dj, local bands; pie eating contest; frog jumping; chicken bbq or lobster bake; dunk tank; beer garden; consider the weekend before the 4th of July
 - Each organization can take responsibility for different aspects and pull it in together
 - Have to all inclusive because many people are in multiple organizations
 - Consider how much profit goes to the town versus how much profit goes to the organization who bought the space; good opportunity for small, local businesses; we can distinguish between a small organization versus a large business
 - NEXT STEPS: reaching out to stakeholders (including Dennis Fraine) and have a sub-committee meeting with interested parties to start the process of a date and logistics (inc. parking and Gatra busses; notification of neighbors)
- Christine Cooper: Family beach festival fundraiser at Silver Lake- cotton candy; band; jump house; burgers and hotdogs; face painting; small stage; shuttle
 - NEXT STEPS: Christine will look into it further and see about logistics
- (Linda Trudeau) Cable 8 wants to partner with committee to broadcast information so the local public to know; advertisements, public appearances from sub-committees; then rebroadcast on other websites
 - NEXT STEPS: Next month, Jenn and Bernadette will have a script and ideas of who and what should be broadcast first
- (Linda Trudeau) 300th Registry of the Arts; Bham Cultural Council art show and art registry including local artists from young to old; working with David Cutler at Keough Memorial Academy to start the process
 - NEXT STEPS: Linda will continue to develop details on this and update the committee next month
- (Samantha Canesi) Logo Development: will follow up with Jenn about development of the 300th logo based on her background in graphic design
- (Jenn Altimonte) Town Store: selling Bham merchandise (shirts, mugs, ornaments, etc.); possibly using Cafe Press or Thredz; difficult to preorder items; looking for someone to chair it or a way to make it profitable
- (Katherine Ehwa) Documentary: help with filming walking tours and broadcasting documentaries; oral histories of people in town

- working with Marcia Crooks and the Historical Commission (Tues mornings 8:15-1:00; first Sunday of each month from 12:00-4:00pm)
- (Lori Columbo) Photography: will we ensure someone is going to be documenting those events throughout the year?
 - Create a hashtag to track and later compile photos on social media
 - Have a 300 picture - people form the number and take an aerial formal
- (Joe Lyons) Guinness Book of World Records: come up with something to get our town in the Guinness Book of World Records
 - Possibly related to ice cream since he's a Friendly's employee
- (Doug Snook) Genealogy Day: winter event to help people who have lived in town forever; possibly partner up with American-French Genealogical Society in Woonsocket
 - Possibly work on digitizing the Crimpville Comments to get more interest
 - Bernadette will consider buying ancestry.com if interest is garnered from this experience

UPCOMING:

- \$20K of "seed money" from Selectmen at fall town meeting
- Check in with Bellingham Bulletin about regular announcements in the paper; now and then photos
- Committee to 'gift' something to the town for green space; as we plan, we will have to allot a certain amount to the gift fund

ACTION ITEMS:

-posting agendas on new town website

-google form for event - put permission on website then it goes to "someone" who can approve it and add it

-public calendar so people can see what is in the works