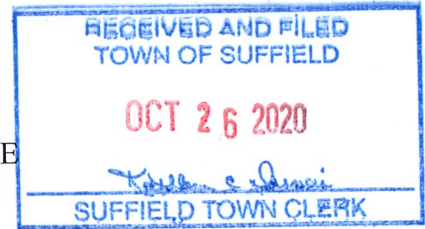


MINUTES OF THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 14, 2020 - - - 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE



Present: Beth Chafetz, Kacy Colston, Matt Joyal, Norm Noble, Caroline d'Otreppe, Eric Remington, Art Sikes and Lester Smith

Not in attendance: Cari Cieri

Also, in attendance: Kris Lambert

Meeting of the 350th Anniversary Committee called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Review Meeting Agenda – Art Sikes moved to approve the agenda as proposed, motion approved unanimously.

Review and approve the minutes of the 9/9 meeting - Eric Remington moved to approve the minutes from the September 9 meeting as submitted, motion approved unanimously.

Review and approve of the minutes from the 9/28 meeting – Postponed to the October 28 meeting to allow more time for committee members to review.

Public Comment – None

Events, Programs & Projects Updates

Commemoration Weekend Feedback and Lessons Learned:

- **Field of Flags** - Many *MANY* thanks to the Suffield Public Works & Highway Department for coming out on Saturday morning to set up the flags after the planned Friday morning setup was disrupted by a 48-hour delay in delivery of the required rebar. Public Works also manufactured all 350 flagpoles out of PVC pipe which had been ordered for that purpose. Lester pointed out that the exhibit was very popular over the weekend with a constant stream of visitors looking up names. Caroline noted that there are more people buying flags, and the Field of Flags team has been able to accommodate them. Eric agreed that the flag display really looks amazing.
- **Fireworks** - Fireworks were great! The best in people's memory. The addition of the 6-inch shells made the display more visually interesting. The firework show was not visible from locations west of West Suffield Mountain. Caroline suggested that we use social media to get feedback from people as to where the fireworks were easily visible, so that we can offer better viewing guidance for next year.

A combination of wind and fire conditions forced us to postpone the firework show by 30 minutes. Future contracts with Pyrotecnico should allow for last minute schedule adjustments due to local safety conditions. Many thanks to Fire Marshall Mike Thibedeau was able to work out the change with the FAA in Georgia. The Suffield Fire Department had trucks out surrounding the McAlister track so that any fires could be put out immediately.

Eric notes that we had plenty of volunteers at sunrise on Sunday to clean up any fireworks mess. About 15 students from Suffield High volunteered to clean up. Caroline offered to follow-up with the Suffield Academy to see if there were any issues with having the firework launch site so close to their playing fields.

- **Car Parade** - Art thought the car parade went by too fast. It took 1 hour and 45 minutes to complete the 32-mile route, for an average speed of under 20 mph, but that still did not give viewers time to really see the vehicles and the decorations.
- **Commemoration Program** - The commemoration program on YouTube was viewed more than 800 times in the first 2.5 days it was online. The program is scheduled to be up through the end of October. Art thought that overall it was a very good program; good flow and it covered a lot of things. Anyone who watched it enjoyed it. Caroline liked how the titles for each section came up rather than having a person introduce each section. Norm suggested that get something out through the schools to make sure students and their families are aware that the program is available for them to view.

Suffield Stories from Another Half-Century - At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the town attorney read Suffield Stories from cover to cover and sent an 8-page memo describing of potential issues and recommendations as to how they might be addressed. Beth will review the recommendations and engage with individual authors to work through the changes.

Cookbook - grant dollars to pay for the cookbook will be administered by Bill Hawkins of the Planning & Zoning department.

Barn Quilt Trail - About 1/4 of the quilts are up, and we are trying to get the rest up by the end of October. The hope is that the barn quilt trail map will be included in the December/January issue of the Suffield Observer.

Matt asked about how long the quilts will stay up. The plan is for them to remain on display as long as the host locations are interested in keeping them.

Suffield Trivia Quest - Plan is to complete the work on it this winter so that it will be available in 2021.

Suffield Trails Guide - Target for this project is to have it completed by Spring 2021. Norm asked about the technology for the guide. The current plan is to lay the whole guide out so that it can be downloaded and printed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, and also to have a few hundred copies printed as a quad-fold brochure and give them away at Suffield venues like The King House and the Phelps-Hatheway House. Norm envisions the trail guide being used by other organizations like the Land Conservancy, Parks & Rec, etc. Norm would like to be involved and recommended that we include Brian Casinghino as well.

Signs on Old Houses (SHS) - Art Sikes has an article going into the November issue of the Suffield Observer giving people info how to learn more about their old house and how to make or acquire a sign for their home.

Communications & Publicity

The November issue of the Suffield Observer - Lots of people in the community have submitted photos from the commemoration weekend events. Beth will include a note about the delay in publishing the Suffield Stories book.

The commemoration keepsake program - The plan is to combine material from the 350th section of the October issue of the Observer and new material from the commemoration weekend and organize it into a coherent program. Material will be posted on Dropbox for review by the committee and by Selectwoman Kathleen Harrington before it goes to print. Target is to have the printed program available before Thanksgiving.

Fundraising

Commemorative merchandise - Beth reported that 100 of the Kent Memorial Library ornaments will be delivered in the next week or so. We are looking at options for in-person sales and we have an order form on the town website that allows people to order commemorative merchandise. We will be adding the Hilltop Farm and Kent Memorial Library ornaments to that order form. We are arranging for merchandise pickups at a central location, or we may deliver or mail if pickup is not practical.

Shall we leverage the enthusiasm from the past weekend to raise funds for next year? - Norm asked if it would hurt if we put a little blurb in The Observer to let people know how to donate if they are interested. Lester's comment was "carpe diem", take advantage of this happy time when many people are feeling good about the weekend activities. Norm did hear a lot of comments from people who were appreciative of what we've been doing,

Caroline has received a couple of requests from people who want to know how to get a copy of the film *Our Town: The Story of Suffield, Connecticut*. There had been concern that by distributing the film now we might reduce the number of people who would be interested in coming to a real showing of the film in the High School auditorium as part of an in-program in Spring 2021.

Beth thought that we should consider including a copy of the film along with the commemorative program for a donation. Kacy wondered if we might end up getting a few dollars donation for a package of material that cost about \$10 to produce. Caroline feels like there are people who would buy the film for family members for Christmas or something, but she would not give it away.

Eric made a point that we should preserve full copies of *Our Town* and of the commemoration program so that it remains available for future use. We don't want either of these videos to be lost. The committee needs to explore options for long term preservation of these two artifacts of the 350th. Caroline suggested that we contact CPTV about film preservation. Lucy Nalpathanchil lives on Mapleton and is host of NPR's radio talk show *Where We Live*. She might be a good resource for us. Eric suggested that we contact Paul Sanderson about what he would recommend.

Consensus is that at this time we will not order thumb drives and start making copies of the *Our Town* film for sale.

Administration

Updates Future meetings - Return to one meeting per month? - The committee agreed that it is no longer necessary to meet twice a month. Art would prefer that we go back to the original Monday schedule, and no one else had a preference. Future meetings will be on the 4th Monday of each month and remaining 2nd Wednesday meetings will be cancelled. The next committee meeting will be Monday, October 26.

350th lawn signs - Lester asked how long we would recommend that people keep the round 350th signs on their lawn. Kacy suggested keeping the signs up through the end of the week. The committee will pick up signs on public property, and people with signs at their homes will be asked if they want to keep them for next year, or if they would prefer that the committee pick them up.

Outdoor decorations - Lester also asked about how long the houses should remain decorated. He pointed out that a number of houses were decorated more for Halloween than for the 350th. Caroline reported that she had to take her decorations down today because she has house painters coming. The direction provided for the Outdoor Decorating Contest was that decorations needed to be up by Oct 7 and needed to stay up at least through Oct 13. Beyond that, it's really up to the individuals as to how long to keep decorations up.

Public Comment – Beth shared that while everyone on the committee has done a lot of work to make the 350th celebration a success, she wanted to offer personal appreciation of committee chair Kacy for her efforts in keeping the 350th events and projects on track. Other committee members agreed.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made at 7:58 pm by Kacy Colston, approved unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Kacy Colston, Committee Chair