

Co-Chairs – 350th Committee

Jonathan Dudley
Kevin Rudden

Treasurer – Brothers of the Brush

Tom Fichtner

Mendon Board of Selectmen

Mark Reil - Chair
Richard Schofield
Christopher Burke



MENDON'S 350TH ANNIVERSARY

Sponsored by:

THE MENDHAM BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH

mendonma.gov/350

20 Main St, Mendon, Massachusetts 01756

mendon350@mendonma.gov

General Committee Members:

Dan Byer - Secretary
AJ Byrne
Theresa Clifton
Sharon Cutler
Sorcha DeFrancesco
Dick Ferrucci
Jeanne Fichtner
Kathleen Sedgely Nicholson
Morgan Smith
Alan Tetreault
Wayne Wagner

Meeting Date: 3/1/2016

Meeting Location: Miscoe Hill Middle School Auditorium

Minutes Approved: 3/19/2016

Committee Members Present: Dan Byer, Theresa Clifton Sharon Cutler, Sorcha DeFrancesco Jonathan Dudley, Dick Ferrucci, Jeanne Fichtner Kathleen Sedgely Nicholson, Alan Tetreault Kevin Rudden

Absent: AJ Byrne, Morgan Smith, , Wayne Wagner

Others: Patricia Cavanaugh, Anne Dudley, Russ Dudley, Tom Fichtner, Lyndsey Nickerson, Karen Pisani

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Dick stated that he has secured the first portion of a donation from the Milford National Bank for \$4,500. They have committed a total of \$9,000. He will contact the committee to set up a photo-op with the check at the bank.

Dick presented some information on the fireworks. He has received an estimate of \$7,000-\$8,000 for a 20-25 min show from one vendor. The committee discussed some possible dates and locations including the center of town and the lake.

Sharon made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2/9/16 meeting, Terry seconded and all approved.

Kathleen discussed the upcoming meeting with the Drive-In. She asked for input on how we can work with them. The committee discussed several ideas including a carnival, screening the 300th and 325th movies, a "Mendon night", and selling merchandise. Kevin suggested asking them to hand out our schedule with their menu to cars. The board agrees that we should show them our schedule of events and see how they can work with us. Kevin suggests asking them what kinds of things they have done for other groups. *Kathleen, Sorcha, Kevin, Jon and Dan will attend the meeting on March 2nd.*

Dan discussed the 350th website. At their last meeting the Brothers approved the purchase of mendon350.com to be a central website for all the 350th stuff. *Dan will work on a template in the next week or so.*

Patricia Cavanaugh presented the committee with a fundraising idea. She suggests harvesting seeds from the sycamore trees on Founder's Park, potting them, and selling seedlings. They could come with some history of the park and trees. The committee all agreed that this was a great idea. Sharon mentioned that Land Use has a contact for someone who knows about the trees and suggested contacting Anne Mazar for more info. The committee discussed branding them and maybe even numbering them 1-350.

The committee also discussed the tree planting at the 325th. Kevin thinks the tree was taken down when the road was re-done but Dick and Alan think it may still be there. Sorcha may have a contact with the Nipmuc Indians if we are interested in something for the 350th.

Kathleen discussed a possibility of forming a “Sisters of the Stitch” group with Kathleen Murphy. They would create a quilt that could be auctioned off.

Joyce Firth discussed the Cultural Council’s involvement. They are looking to have a “Mother Mendon” chorus featuring groups from Mendon and the daughter/granddaughter towns. They have located a venue in Northbridge and are working on finding a date and a director. They are also willing to sponsor other 350th events. The deadline for applications is Oct. 15th.

Kevin gave an update on the store. It will be open this Sat. from 9am -12pm. He could use a 2nd person to help. Charles River has sold mostly mugs and we are almost out. Kevin bought another 72 mugs since they are selling so well. He will request reimbursement once they have sold. There are 20-30 of the bracelets and keychains left. The committee discussed promoting them for Mother’s day. Tom stated that the balance in the 350th account under the Brothers is \$2,475.89.

Dan suggested that we reach out to the subcommittees and set a deadline for an update. We need to firm up the dates and budgets for the events. Kevin agreed and the committee discussed scheduling. *Dan will email the subcommittees and request an update on the events and budget.*

Kevin discussed the issue that had come up with the subcommittees and fundraising. Because the subcommittees are part of the 350th they are also subject to the same limitations on fundraising. Lyndsey would like to go out and solicit sponsorships for the Turkey Trot event but is unable to do so because of the restrictions. Members are concerned that Town officials cannot solicit donations and the subcommittee members could be considered town officials. Kevin stated one idea he has discussed with Jon would be to change the 350th committee from a town committee to part of the Brothers of the Brush. Dan mentioned that there may be issues with liability depending on who is sponsoring the events and especially events that require a 1-day liquor license. We will definitely need insurance on any events that involve alcohol. Alan suggested talking to Rich and the Selectmen. The committee agrees that we need to solve this issue as soon as possible.

The committee discussed the next meeting date and agreed on Tuesday, April 15th.

Dan asked about what events would require bands. He would like to reach out to the schools as soon as possible so they have the dates. Kevin stated that they would not need a band for the Santa parade. Dick said they would hire a pop band for the banquets, block party, and ham and bean supper. It was suggested that we try and get the school band for the formal birthday celebration and the final parade.

The committee discussed the calendar and a letter to residents. Kevin had started working on the letter. The committee discussed options to mail it including direct mailings and inserts in the tax bills. The committee agrees that we need to get details finalized in the next few meetings for the events. Dan stated he will draft letters to the children towns and other Mendon’s. He asked what event they would be invited to and Dick suggested the formal banquet at the end and the parade.

Alan made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm, Sharon seconded and all approved.