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Kevin Rudden

Treasurer – Brothers of the Brush

Tom Fichtner

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General Committee Members:

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

MENDON'S 350TH ANNIVERSARY

Sponsored by:

THE MENDHAM BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH

mendonma.gov/350

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Meeting Date: 3/2/2017

Meeting Location: Old Taft Library, 18 Main St. Mendon, MA

Minutes Approved: 5/15/2017

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

Absent: AJ Byrne, Wayne Wagner

Others: Mark Bucchino, Anne Dudley, Russ Dudley, Tom Fichtner, Dick Grady, Joyce Firth, Ken O'Brien, Larry Pearson, Sally Riendeau, Kathy Schofield, John Trainor

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Dick Grady and John Trainor came to the meeting to discuss the proposed June reenactment event. John T. explained the history of Rounder's Park. He explained that the Mendon militia mustered on Founders Park in 1775. He shared a list from the Annals of Mendon listing the soldiers. He also explained how early Mendon history was tied to early revolutionary war history. Several Mendon residents were involved in the Suffolk Resolves that eventually shaped the Declaration of Independence.

Anne has made contact with the Massachusetts 2nd Battalion. They are willing to do a 1 day event for \$600. It would consist of an encampment and muster. John and Dick both suggested we recreate the Founder's Park muster. The committee discussed dates and location. It was suggested we could use the town land across from the park and do the actual muster on Founder's Park. Dick mentioned the Lion's circus is 6/26-28. Larry asked if the event would be overnight, Anne explained it was just a day event. The committee is in favor.

Dick made a motion to appropriate no more than \$600 for a reenactment on Founder's Park, Jon D. seconded, all approved.

Dick Grady and Jon Trainor left the meeting @ 19:15

Tom presented the finance report (attached). The committee discussed.

Dick made a motion to approve the 3/2/17 financial report, Alan seconded, and all approved.

Larry Pearson and Ken O'Brien discussed the farm to table event. Larry got information on Daniel's Farm. There is usually a \$1,000-\$1,200 fee for the use of the farm but the person he spoke with thinks their board may be willing to waive the fee. They also can't do Sundays. There are no utilities available and we could get a 1-day license from Blackstone. We would need a tent and the cost would likely be \$700-\$2,000. The advantages to this location are it's an actual farm and there is plenty of parking. Larry also talked to Southwick's, they have a permanent tent from May-October. He didn't get any pricing because he was unable to contact the event person there. They have the restaurant there, have a liquor license, and have

utilities. They generally set up group admissions with wrist bands and may willing to set up a package deal with zoo admissions. We will need to book way in advance as they fill up fast. Larry's recommendation is Daniel's Farm. A third option is Vandervalk Farm. Larry was unable to get info as the owner is in Florida. And a 4th option is the Town land across from Clough.

Larry has talked to a produce farmer in Mendon and can get squash and corn. He's still working on contacting Peter Hawkes to get info on beef. The committee discussed the timing and feel that fall is the best time. Sally suggests a fall festival maybe around Halloween. Larry thinks the event would be a more casual event. Kevin asked who will organize. He asked the main committee for volunteers. So far we have Larry and Ken. Dan will send an email to the 350th mail list and ask for volunteers. Committee agrees we need a sub-committee. Jon will contact Peter Hawkes. The committee discussed the size of the event and funding. Dick was under the impression the event would be free. Larry says we would have to charge some sort of admission fee.

Kathy Schofield arrives at 7:30.

Kevin says we need to get a proposal together with some ballpark costs. All agree it is a great idea. Jon says we need to move on and we will form a sub-committee to work out the details. Sally offered to help. Jon asked Dan to put out the request for volunteers.

Larry and Ken left the meeting at 7:40

Sorcha and Dan updated the committee on the Native American event. They met with Ray, who would lead the event. He will do a tree planting ceremony as well as children's activities and games. The issue now is the date and location. Dan discussed the tree planting. He has a few spots at the library that may work. One is along the road to the left of the library, the other is in the back. Alan says the issue is avoiding road salt. Dick asked about Founder's Park but Kathy said there's no room. Kathy said the location at the rear of the library may work. The location at the front will require removing a few trees to make room. Kevin suggested something similar to the tree they planted for Bob Carlson at the Library. Kathy suggests a legacy tree that will last for several hundred years. Dan has a price on an American Elm with a plaque for \$200. The committee discussed the date of the event. Dan and Sorcha are having a hard time finding a date in May. It was suggested to consider the fall instead.

Jon made a motion to appropriate up to \$300 for the Native American event, Alan seconded and all approved.

Jeanne and Sally updated the committee on the St Paddy's day event. There are 180 tickets sold of 326. There is an issue with the cost. They met with the End Zone and he told them it was \$14.99 a plate plus 18% tax and gratuity. The committee agrees that we are exempt from tax. Dan will send the tax info to Jeanne and Tom. Sorcha shared the sample shot glasses and pint glasses with the committee. Jon got the pricing from the police and the cost will be \$440. Jeanne explained the event is running about \$1,500 short after expenses. However, we have the raffle tickets to make additional funds. The committee discussed the donated price of the 2-night getaway at the Cape Cod Irish Village. Dick suggests auctioning it. Kevin and Sharon explained they got some feedback from the COA the pricing was too expensive. The committee agreed the pricing was based on the costs of the food. Dan said a reminder about the event and ticket sales went out today through the schools. Tom said the cut off for sales will be next week Monday or Tuesday.

Dick said it is ok to break even or even have a slight loss, Kevin agree. Sally and Jeanne say with the raffles we will break even. Jeanne is concerned the End Zone changed the price on us. The committee discussed and will pre-sell the glasses. The sub-committee asked for people to sell raffle tickets

Dan updated the committee on the parade. He has been getting pricing on the bands. Right now, Blackstone-Millville Regional wants \$2,000. Jon has been reaching out to some groups and getting similar

quotes. Dan suggests we need to prioritize who we want and work on a budget. Kevin explained he got an update on the budget. He went to the recent FinCom meeting. Our budget request is still part of the budget but they are working to close a \$200K gap. Kevin is also working on a letter to residents for the parade and block party to warn them. Mark said he invited all 26 fire departments that were part of our division. He will also invite the departments of towns Mendon fire does parades in. Mark has conformed MEMA will be there with the command post and trailer. He is trying to secure donations of ambulance services from local companies. Jon has reached out to the State Police and Environmental Police. They have a mounted unit, Pipe Drum Band, and Honor Guard.

The committee discussed the parade route. Kevin says he will measure the heights of the wires. Alan said the law requires them to be 15' high. Dan said the parade application specifies a max height of 12'. Kathy suggests contacting the local dance schools.

Tom asked about military involvement. Sally will ask Wayne where he left off. Jon asked about fundraising and sponsorships for bands. Kathy suggests contacting local dance studios.

The committee discussed the grand marshal of the parade. It was suggested that Wayne Wagner should be the grand marshal.

Alan made a motion to select General Wayne Wagner as grand marshal of the 350th parade, Dan seconded, all approved.

Jon reviewed the plans for the Brothers and 350th Porketta planned for 4/13. He has tickets for \$20 each. The event will be for committee members and their significant others only.

Kevin gave an update on the birthday party. He will schedule another meeting soon. He estimates a budget of \$1,200. They will need to cover entertainment, the cakes, paper goods, and the brass quintet. The event will be from 2-4 at Clough.

Dick made a motion to approve the 350th birthday event budget as not to exceed \$1,200, Alan seconded, all approved.

Dan reviewed the Mendon Sings event. He explained the costs of licensing have increased the proposed budget. However we have \$4,000 in cultural funds and will cover the rest through tickets. The sub-committee will only make CD's and DVD's if they can cover the costs of licensing and producing them. Kevin will talk to the muffin house and see if they are interested in selling concessions. Dan explained tickets are now available. So far we have sold around 20. We need to sell at least 100 to break even. Tom suggested advertising in the other Towns.

Sharon made a motion to approve the proposed budget for Mendon Sings, not to exceed \$6,500, Alan seconded and all approved.

Kathy Schofield discussed a proposed community storefront challenge to celebrate the 350th. She would like to challenge the local store fronts to decorate for the 350th to build some community spirit and involve the local businesses. The committee discuss and all are in favor. They discussed dates and agreed on May, around the birthday. The committee also discussed putting up bunting for the block party into the parade.

Jon suggested the committee start thinking of a float for the parade.

Dan stated the tickets for the 350th paint night fundraiser are on sale now.

The committee discussed the next meeting date and agreed on 4/3.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.