

Tolland 300th Anniversary Planning/Fundraising Committee

Meeting, February 2, 2012

7 p.m., Tolland Public Library Program Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present: Celeste Senechal, Kathy Bach, Sharon Hiller, Eric Weiss, Jeanne Salois, Perne Maynard, Jodi Coombs, Herb DiMeola, Mike Pascuzzi, Jim Gifford, Mary-Pat Soucy and Kate Farrish

2. Subcommittee reports: Celeste outlined several books that are being planned to coincide with the 300th anniversary.

Sharon said that a gala is planned for May 16 or May 30, 2015 and members are seeking a site for the dance. Celeste suggested the parking lot at St. Matthew's Church.

Sharon also reported that the religious services committee is seeking to meet with clergy members from all five churches in town. Members of the committee would like to see the churches hold a series of concerts in 2015 to mark the anniversary. She also said the committee has discussed commemoration of a bench in memory of Janice Pockett, who disappeared July 26, 1973 while riding her bike on Rhodes Road. The bench would be dedicated on the grounds of Tolland Intermediate School on July 26, 2013, the 40th anniversary of her disappearance. Celeste said the parade committee has met once and would like to invite the UConn marching band and the Clydesdale horses.

Kathy reported that the heritage trail committee is researching which important sites around town should have markers and be included in a book or map.

Kate reported that the communications committee will prepare a commemorative program to be published May 12, 2014 listing all Tolland 300th events being planned between May 12 and September 20, 2015. Civic groups will be asked to tell the communications committee about any events they're planning by Dec. 31, 2013. Kate also demonstrated the Tolland 300th web site and the Facebook page.

3. Celeste drew up a timeline of Tolland 300th events beginning with a kick-off reception for donors, volunteers and supporters on May 12, 2014. She said the program would be unveiled then and oral history interviews that Perne is conducting could also be shared with the public. Celeste reported that she and Kate will be meeting with fire officials Feb. 6 to discuss the possibility of fireworks on Sept. 19 after Celebrate Tolland and the night before the parade that will end the 300th celebration. Perne said he has researched the alternative of a laser show and found that it would likely be cheaper than fireworks and that vendors can tailor the show to highlights aspects of the town. There would be fewer safety issues to consider with a laser show, Perne said. Mike said he favored the laser show because it would be cheaper and possibly more entertaining than fireworks.

Other events on the timeline would be the May 12, 2014 Charter Day reception, the May 16 gala, heritage hikes and summer concerts leading up to the culminating weekend of

celebrations. Kathy suggested that the group be mindful of the school calendar and that many families are away in the summer.

4. Merchandise: Sharon said car magnets and t-shirts are on sale at The Homestead, and the magnets are available in the town manager's office. Kathy said she would be glad to sell the magnets at the jail museum and that the committee could share the historical society's table at the Feb. 12 antiques show. Sharon showed a blanket from Vernon's anniversary that featured prominent mills and history sites from their town, and committee members liked the idea of selling Tolland blankets as a fundraiser.
5. Kate and Jim reported that the communications committee, Mary-Pat and Celeste have come up with fundraising letters and brochures to be mailed out to businesses this May 12. Kate reported that the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce may allow us to use their mailing list and will allow the committee to sell our merchandise at its business showcase April 10. Sharon made a motion, seconded by Mary-Pat, to spend \$410.67 on the brochures and postage. It was unanimously approved.
6. Jim and Kate proposed spending \$206.40 for 24 lawn signs and stakes to post around town on May 12 to raise awareness of the coming anniversary. Sharon made a motion to approve the \$206.40 for lawn signs. Mary-Pat seconded it. It was unanimously approved.
7. Perne explained that he is interested in conducting oral history interviews of prominent Tolland residents and families but could use research help from committee members.
8. Jim explained a "wiki" he has set up for Tolland 300th members to share information.
9. Celeste said the entire group of Tolland 300th volunteers is invited to a meeting March 1 at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Tolland.
10. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.