

Montgomery 300th Anniversary Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2013

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Board Conference Room

Present: Joe Walsh, Stacy Crandell, Larry Gregan, Ginna Holsinger, Kate Karatas, Jim Kelly, Janet McCrossen, Sue Miller, Roy Rodriguez, Richard Roller, Gordon Simes, Nancy Walsh, Ginny Bailey

Chairman, Joe Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the January 14, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected. To help Maureen, Ginny will now be taking meeting minutes and sending out agendas.

Finance Report

Kate reported that as of January 31st, the Committee has a total balance of \$8,362.13 and 48 SaveAround Coupon Books have been sold for a total of \$960.00. It was requested that we have a count of the remaining coupon books at the next meeting. (Note: There are currently 19 books in the Township Building.)

A bill from Budget Printing for \$87.25 for website maintenance was approved for payment. It was discussed that we ask Budget Printing for the ability to add information and maintain the website so we won't incur similar expenses in the future.

Old Business:

Thank You's for JAI Event

After we get the list from Maureen of the "thank you's" already sent, Stacy will send out any remaining "thank you's" to the people who attended, the people who attended and made donations and the people interested but could not attend.

Status of Receipts and Vouchers

Receipts will go out to anyone who's donated money and vouchers have been developed for the people/firms who need them. There was concern that Sal's Nursery is not listed as a sponsor on our website.

May 9th Golf Outing

Roy attended the meeting on January 18th with Harry Green who is an "expert" at running golf outings. Roy reported that he couldn't stay for the whole meeting but said the committee has a timeline for promoting the event and plans are being finalized. As a tie-in, they would still like

to hold the event to introduce the 300th Anniversary beer the Thursday or Friday after the golf outing.

Stacy handed out a sample planning document used for the Autumn Festival. She thought if each subcommittee could use them when planning events it will help the events run more smoothly.

Historic House Tour

Rich said the 4 definite houses on the tour are: Joseph Ambler Inn, Montgomery Baptist Church, the Cooper house and Knapp house. He is waiting to hear from Indian Lake Farm and the Desmonds and is not sure about the Brenners. It was asked if Dennis C.'s house would qualify as an historic house and will be scheduled for the house tour in 2014.

Due to limited parking and for better control of visitors, Janet is working on getting transportation to and from the houses. She is working with someone who works with Joseph Ambler Inn to get an hourly rate for the shuttle. Even with transportation, it is hoped to keep the cost of the tickets to \$25. The tour will run from 10-4 with Joseph Ambler Inn as the start and end point and will offer refreshments. Larry will check to see if the Township's insurance will cover the houses on the tour.

September 20th Community Day

Sue would like to include an antique car show as part of the event but the Township has never had one due to parking. Stacy suggested that Horsham Township has events at different parks for their Horsham Day festivities so perhaps we could hold the car show at Spring Valley Park while the rest of the festivities and fireworks take place at Windlestrae. It was suggested a shuttle bus could take people from park to park and perhaps the baseball and soccer associations could join to sponsor an event.

It was also suggested that we hold one or maybe two more 5K runs – the first to raise funds for the Committee and the second for a charity. We were asked to think about it for the next meeting since closing the Parkway would require a permit. Larry will contact PennDot and State Representative Todd Stephens office to get the ball rolling.

Joe said his focus will be more on fundraising because of his connections but thought Ginna and Tanya could talk to local businesses about having events with the 300th Anniversary tie-in. They would run the events so the Committee would not have to be involved but could stretch the festivities and celebration for the year.

Montgomery County Historical Fair

Roy said Karen Stocking of the W.S. Hancock Society was very interested in holding the 2014 Montgomery County Historical Fair in the Township in 2014 and Rich and Roy will go to different sites next week to determine a good location.

New Business:

Oral Histories

Nancy mentioned that the time table for the oral histories will have to be pushed back until this summer when Jason and Shane come home from college. Both feel very possessive of this project and want to make sure it's done right. One interview with Ginny has been taped with 1-2 more interviews to follow. Nancy will revise the timeline so more interviews with other interesting Township residents can be scheduled and would like the Committee to consider compensation for Jason and Shane since both have put a lot of time into this project.

Nancy also would like to hold an event at Barnes & Noble with a panel of long-time Township residents to share their stories and history of the Township.

Commemorative Tiles

Rich showed the tiles he had made at the Clay Rat Studios in Souderton – the tiles will be a limited edition of 300 and cost 300 dimes (\$30). In addition to the traditional blue, green and aqua tiles were also made as an example and the Committee decided to have 30 of each color available with the remaining 240 tiles blue. They will be on sale in the Recreation Office at the Township Building.

Byers' Choice

Sue has not given up on having Byers' Choice make a Winfield Scott Hancock doll as a commemorative item. Sue was talking with Dawn Szop, the custom caroler representative, who said we would have a better chance of having Joyce do the caroler if we can provide the "accessory" for the doll. It was initially thought this would be a sword but Sue found a W.S. Hancock figurine holding field glasses and thought maybe that could be the accessory. Other suggestions were a writing instrument or a map of Gettysburg. Sue asked the Committee to be on the lookout for an appropriate item we could supply to Byers' Choice.

Billboards on Route 309

Sue suggested that it would be nice if one of the billboards along Route 309 could be put up wishing everyone a "Happy 300" but billboards are very expensive. It was suggested maybe Mark's Jewelers would be willing to let us use his billboard but Larry said that electronic billboards would be put up shortly. In addition to advertisements, the billboards would be used to relay traffic information and Amber Alerts and, as part of the agreement, there would be time for public service announcements which could display anniversary information. It was also suggested we have banners made for across Horsham Road and to hang off the Chief Richard Brady Bridge. Nancy thought it would be nice if we had flags for sale that residents could put on their lawns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm followed by the Committee picture in the Township Meeting Room.

Next meeting – Monday, March 4th at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey