

Montgomery 300th Anniversary Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 4, 2013

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Board Conference Room

Present: Joe Walsh, Tanya Bamford, Dennis Cooney, Stacy Crandell, Larry Gregan, Ruth Hardin, Maureen Waddington, Kate Karatas, Roy Rodriguez, Richard Roller, Nancy Walsh, Ginny Bailey

Chairman, Joe Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the February 4, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Finance Report

Kate reported that as of February 28th, the Committee has a total balance of \$19,109.38. Kate gave Rich a budget for the house tour and has budgets set up for each event that she will send them out to the Committee.

An inventory of the SaveAround Coupon Books shows we have 23 left (Mark's Jewelers has 10 and there are 13 in the Recreation Office). Two coupon books and 4 tiles were sold at the Township's Volunteer Brunch on Sunday, March 3rd.

Joe thanked Stacy for putting together the letters for our donors and attendees to the JAI event. We have received over \$11,000 in donations as a result of the letters.

There will be a 5K run this Sunday starting at the Village Tavern and Dennis C. will be running. The race starts at 10:00 with registration starting at 9:00-9:30 so Maureen and Nancy will help staff a table and be there between 8:00-8:30 to set up. Stacy will have everything (chip clips, magnets, post-its, etc.) ready by Thursday.

Old Business:

Golf Outing

Stacy made up brochures for the golf outing and passed them around for input. Dennis C. said he was hoping to sign up 144 golfers and 300 at the dinner. Dennis is looking for lots of sign sponsors since that's "easy money." Dennis' big concern is getting donations for prizes.

Tanya mentioned that the Montgomery Township Business Group would like to sponsor the golf outing as a group and would like to get some sponsorship exposure in exchange for their support. Tanya said they were looking at becoming a bronze level sponsor for the golf outing. Dennis and Tanya will discuss how to make this beneficial for both groups.

Maureen suggested that golf outing committee members should be listed on the brochure for name recognition. Nancy suggested setting up a table at church to get participants and Joe will check with the church. It was also suggested to check with the golf shops in the area to see if they will help promote the event.

Historic House Tour

Rich reported that the subcommittee met and they have four homes for the 2013 tour – Joseph Ambler Inn, Montgomery Baptist Church, the Detweiler House and Bill Cooper’s house. Rich said Bill Cooper’s wife has some concerns but Rich is sure he will participate. He has contacted the folks at Indian Lake Farm but they have not returned his calls. Providing transportation to the houses has proven to be a “nightmare” so people will have to take individual cars but parking is a concern. Rich is also working on a contract for the individual home owners and will get it submitted for approval. The Blue Sky House is up for sheriff sale and is currently not occupied.

Subcommittee Forms

Stacy provided an example of a form subcommittees could use to report the results of their meetings. They don’t have to be formal minutes but Stacy would like to know what transpired at the meetings, plans, action taken, next steps, etc. so the Committee knows what’s going on and if staff is needed for assistance.

Montgomery County History Fair

Rich and Roy talked to Bruce and Karin Stocking and took them around to possible sites in the Township. They liked the Knapp House but Rich will have to present it to the Historical Society and then to the Board of Supervisors. The fair would take place in September 2014 but would not interfere with Community Day. It was suggested that the fair be held the weekend before Community Day as a lead-in event. The property is a big enough space if the “wetlands” behind the house were mowed for the vendors but parking could be an issue. One solution would be to have the vendors park at the mall so visitors could use the parking lot near the house. Rich will present the request to the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 11th.

Oral Histories

Nothing’s changed since the last meeting. Jason is home for spring break so Nancy will contact him about setting up a schedule for interviews this summer.

Fireworks

Stacy talked to the Director of Fire Services, Rick Lesniak, and we have to book fireworks a year in advance. Larry was trying to contact Whitemarsh to get an idea of cost and the company who put on their display. Stacy has a list of vendors so she and Rick will contact them to get details and look at sites. We should have them booked by August for next September’s event. Right now, the fireworks would be the marquee event on Saturday night but if we had the funds, we could do a smaller show on Friday night with a larger show on Saturday night.

Car Show

Stacy did research on car shows and they are as complicated to run as a 5K if not worse. We wouldn’t have it as a fundraiser but as something else to do at Spring Valley Park. Stacy thought

rather than have a separate car show, help FDMT with their car show to make it bigger and to help them raise money.

5K Run(s)

Stacy talked to PennDOT and it is not off the table to close down the parkway for the run. She would like a definite answer from them before she proceeds in further planning. Last year's run raised a lot of money but after expenses were paid, \$7,219.24 was donated. This year's event would be a fundraiser for the Committee but 2014's could be for a charity.

Limekiln Pike Bridge Event

Roy reported that the bridge, built in 1838, was recently restored by PennDOT and is on the National Historical Register. Roy would like to see the Committee erect a marker noting the bridge's history – not as a fundraiser but to bring awareness about the bridge. Rich said you don't need the State's permission to get a marker and the Committee could buy one.

300th Website Updates

In order to keep costs down, we're going to update the website once a month. Larry and Stacy are working up a sponsorship page because the original is out of date but Stacy is having trouble getting logos from some of the businesses. Future improvements include taking down Christina's picture and put up the golf outing brochure.

New Business:

Penn Suburban Business Fair, April 4th

The Township has a table at this event every year and it would be nice to have information and a table again this year to promote the 300th Anniversary. In addition to our give-aways, we could promote the golf outing and definitely our sponsorship information since there will be many area businesses represented. This year's event will be at Christopher Dock.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next meeting – Monday, April 1st at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey