

Meeting Minutes America 250 Committee 4th meeting

September 16th @ 6:30 PM

Next Meetings – Budget Presentation Wed 15th @6:30

Monday October 20th, @6:30 PM &

1. **Committee Attendees:** Kristin Warner (Supervisor), Joyce Snyder (Supervisor), Michon Blake (OSPAC), and Nancy Becker (PC) Tiffanie Stanton Katie Cleary (Events) (arrived mid meeting)

Absent: Molly Jobson (Morgan Log House Director), Michael Lewis (Veterans)

Guests: Barb Shanley (local historian) and Ema Hodgson (DAR member)

2. **DAR:** Emma Hodgson introduced herself and explained that the local Daughter's of the American Revolution chapter participates in many annual patriotic events throughout Montgomery County, ie. They will be at the County Seat Court House in Norristown (Sept 17) for Constitution Day leading the Pledge of Allegiance. She also shared that her daughter is in CAR (Children of the American Revolution). The Committee invited DAR and CAR to participate in the Towamencin event on June 25, 2026 (5PM-9:00 PM) Particularly the opening ceremonies for our America 250 celebration. Emma will reach out to fellow DAR for participation.
3. **Volunteers:** The committee discussed getting student volunteers involved especially for "game day" from the following sources: NPHS Key Club and National Honor Society (NHS), ROTC and Scouts. It was suggested that requests are made early in the New Year.
4. **Food Trucks:** Katie has secured Italian (Pizza), Mexican and Mediterranean food trucks, She will follow up with a Hotdog, Hamburger (Americano) and Mr. Softie.
5. **Pies:** Offering Apple and Cherry Pies was (possibly sourcing from Hennings was suggested – Katie will call Hennings to ask @ including a pie table.

6. **Budget Request list of ideas:** **Michon and Tiffanie agreed to be co-chairs**

A) Music

1. Katie confirmed that the **Montco Band** is available to perform from 7-9 PM at a cost of **\$1000.00**. She had indicated previously that they already entertain for no charge at our Towamencin Day as a service to our community

2. Nancy spoke with a new director of the Redhill band. She will follow up with that person to share that we'd like them to perform 5-@6:45 PM and ask for their cost.

B. Busses Katie has reached out to Molly for another bus source she's been in touch with for historic tour events to get competitive quotes. Per Katie

1. Klein \$2,500.00

2. King Limo: All in, it would be approximately \$1400-\$1600 depending on fees, tax, gratuity, tolls,

(1) 21 Passenger mini bus **(\$800)**

(1) 12 Passenger handicap accessible mini bus **(\$650)**

King Limo strongly suggested to get this booked by beginning of December because he's already getting busy with the World Cup happening from mid-June to July 4th. He said our area is going to be tight with getting vendors for something like our celebration.

B) Printing of Formal Invitation:

Katie created a sample (attached to the email that contains these minutes) and will determine an estimated cost for the budget.

C) Entertainment:

1. Joyce spoke with Molly who has communicated with a Martha and George possibility. Price unknown and participation not confirmed as of yet.
2. Michon has spoken to the **Uncle Sam Stilt Walker \$550 cost per hour**. He does Ribbons & juggling. It was also discussed asking if he'd give 3 hrs (**\$750.00**) to include time for photos with attendees.
3. Joyce will follow up with Michael at Veterans meeting Monday 9/22 about scout participation.
 - Katie said we could ask our local markets for donation of Smore supplies (toasting marshmallows, graham crackers and chocolate bars plus Kool-Aid and dixie cups. Kristin offered to supply Mint water to give out also in mini dixie cups.
4. **Face Painters info from Katie:**
 - typically have 2 paints for the 4 hours totaling \$850 for both. The Township pays so that the event goers don't have to.

D) Story Walk: Tiffanie is in contact with the Indian Valley Library for guidance and is searching for costs Michon suggested Paul Revere Poem

E Craft and Game ideas Kristin is in contact with Molly to work out the details and projected costs 1.

Games: Corn Hole (borrow from Molly (Morgan Log House), Shut the box (6 players = **\$25.99 X2 = \$52.00**)

and Marbles (2 sets of 150 pcs small glass \$21.99 each 14mm and 1 set (10 pcs 1 inch larger glass \$12.99) = @\$56.00

7. **Crafts:** Corn husk dolls, cup and ball, potato stamps and letters to active military (Burlap 40 in X33ft roll \$30.00 (dress & overalls) twine (5.99 per 600 ft roll X2= @\$12.00), Finger paints 8 oz bottles / 8 colors = \$30.00 (for potato stamps) and Face Painting crayons 42 pcs X2= \$28.00, Stickers Patriotic Stars 500PCS 1.5 in = \$5.99 X3= \$18.00, 250 sheets card stock \$13.49 X 2 = \$27.00 and Beads 200 pcs 17 mm large hole wooden beads (\$12.99 X2 = \$26.00

F Decorations:

1. ***Lighting:** Kristin shared details of her meeting with Dave H. – His perspective:
- a) His costars source for lighting has been reliable with sturdy wiring and individual bulbs allowing both longevity and ease of replacing bad bulbs.
 - b) His experience overseeing the Holiday displays for multiple decades is you need enough lights to make an impact. The base layer he recommends is 15 trees along the entrance drive, wrapping the fence line bordering Bustard Road, and the pavilions in the center of the park. He also suggested a few Red White & Blue spots & also have a few lines on the pedestrian bridge. The estimate for all lighting = @\$15,000.00
 - c) Kristin made a further point that our Township doesn't do fireworks while much of our surrounding municipalities host annual events. Lighting Fisher's Park for this event would add a celebratory ambiance that could be enjoyed for several weeks for the cost of a small one-time firework or drone show.
 - d) Joyce expressed concern of later sunset time since this event is at the Summer equinox. All agreed this may limit the length of time they illuminate vs. December when dark occurs early in the evening.

Buntings: Michon suggested adding Buntings for daytime color. Kristin asked Dave H for a costar quote. He shared the following measurements, and she calculated the amounts and costs if ordered from an Amazon source below:

One side = 28 fans or 7 sets of 4 = \$237.93 (using the Amazon link)

Arneth = (12 fans 75" / 6 ft. per fan)

Bull Penn = @9 fans (210 / 4 sides / 6 ft. per fan = 8.75)

Beck's Pavilion = @ 7 fans (170 / 4 sides / 6 ft. per fan = 7.08)

All the way around = 92 = 23 sets of 4 = \$781.77 (using the Amazon link)

Arneth 165' / 6 ft. per fan = 28 fans

Bull Penn = 210' / 6 ft. per fan = 35 fans

Beck's = 170' / 6 ft. per fan = 29 fans

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Warner (Supervisor)

Next meetings: Monday Oct 13 (6:30 PM) and Budget Present Wednesday October 16th (6:30 PM)

- **Adendum:** regarding lighting – email from Public Works Dir, Dave Hillmantel

Kristin,

In addition to the original proposal of the lights on 15 trees in the front of Fischer's Park with new wire and bulbs at the cost of \$9280.00 I have added the lighting of all pavilions and bridge over creek near the dam with new Red ,White and Blue bulbs with the addition of 3500 additional bulbs to be exchanged with existing lights that are still up on all pavilions, bridge and front fence at Bustard Road at a cost of $3500 \times 1.16 = \$3851.20$ making the total just in ne lights at \$13,101.20. I would also like to add red, white, and blue floodlights like we do in winter on the birch trees in the parking lot.at a cost of \$500.00.

I think that the bunting and other festive banners would be great on the bathrooms or Arneth Entertainment Center for a festive daytime feeling. I have added Events to this chain as Katie may have a supplier to purchase these requested items.

I feel that a good budget number just for the lighting of the trees and pavilions for the 250 events would be around \$15,000.00 for price increases over the next year.

David Hillmantel

PS. In my discussion with Dave H he made the following points:

1. Although more expensive than what could be sourced via Amazon using the same lighting style and costars source utilized for our holiday lighting has the following benefits:
 - a) Proven durability and longevity
 - b) Even red and blue bulbs will be reusable for subsequent holiday lighting