

Meeting Minutes America 250 Committee 9th meeting

Monday February 16 @ 6:30 PM

Next Meeting – Monday March 16 @6:30 PM

- **Committee Attendees:** Committee Cochairs Michon Blake (OSPAC) and Tiffany Stanton ran the meeting), Joyce Snyder and Kristin Warner (Supervisor Liaisons), Nancy Becker (PC), Michael Lewis (American Legion- Hatfield), Stacy Spizziri (Sr Vice Commander Chaplin), Holly Hayick (DAR),

Absent: Molly Jobson (Morgan Log House Director), Victor Verbeke (SAR & Montgomery Historical Society)

Michon opened the meeting with a request for approval of last month's – meeting #8 minutes. Nancy motioned, Katie seconded and all said yes.

Michon and Tiffany set the focus, beginning in March they'd like to firm up any lingering ideas and eliminate those not yet confirmed. Once finalized the committee will create the timeline and an events map. Invites should be mailed by March 30th, and volunteers will be sought and signed up by April – May.

1. Promotion and Invites:

- Michelle Sepulveda (Township Communications)** will begin including the save the date every three weeks (so as not to become stale) to start. It will also be in our Spring hard copy newsletter and promoted in the cover article.
- Katie** will create the hardcopy invite by rewording the "Save the date". The proclamation style that all liked will be kept. They will be printed, addressed and mailed in house.
- Michael** –asked Tiffany to contact the ROTC NPHS Leader in person to invite to both our meetings and the 250th event. She was given his name and number. Michael will reach out to his Legion. In addition, a Save the Date should be sent to both ROTC and the Legion if not done already. Katie will check her list.
- Kristin** filled out the forms required to alert Senators Fetterman and McCormick, the 3 County Commissioners and Madeleine Dean. She has only received one

definite not able to attend from John Fetterman's office. All other responses have been a standard form response of receipt. All will be included in the formal invitation mailing.

- E. **Holly** believes that at least a couple of DAR members will be available to host a table since some locals will not attend the National Convention in Washington DC, already scheduled for that same week. Who will be decided closer to.
 - F. **Banner** – A banner promoting the event was discussed. It was decided to be pursued for two to hang on either side of the foot bridge on Forty Foot Road. The banners size and style hung on the fence at Fisher's for other events cost @\$500 per. Katie will ask her source for a current price.
2. **Drone show**- The *100 drone show to close our evening has been confirmed. Possible sponsorship is still a desire. Joyce and Kristin discussed a late afternoon door knock with hand delivered hard copy invitation as well as the request for donation / sponsorship at any level. To be done in MARCH once Katie has completed the hard copy invite.

*Michon researched how many drones Upper Gwynedd have had in their recent shows- she reported back that they used 100 and found it to be a great show.

3. Update on Activities:

- A. **Petting Zoo**- Katie confirmed a contract signed with the petting zoo for \$2,950.00 (including a Peruvian Alpaca, miniature Sicilian Donkey, several Woolly Sheep, little Goats, soft Bunnies, Ducks, several exotic Chickens and Indian Fantails) Plus: hand sanitizer, staff, and their own fencing) rather than offering pony rides for the following reasons: 1) more variety of animals should eliminate the long line pony rides would inevitably create, 2) Petting zoos are fun for young, old and in between.
- B. **Face Painting**: The committee voted unanimously for two face painters at a total cost of \$700.

C. Games-

- **13 Colonies Trivia**- Joyce shared the trivia that she created with 3 (easy, moderate and more challenging) questions for each of the 13 colonies. Envisioning that having a range of questions will boost participation to entice entire families and or adult groups to play / learn some fun – fact history.
- Multiple (how many to be determined at a future meeting) **Shut the box** & **Cornhole** games will be offered for play

D. Crafts:

Kristin and Joyce will meet with Molly in March to test the following crafts:

- **Ball and Cup** (save your cardboard egg cartons)
- **Potato Stamps** (Molly suggested we acquire small plastic cookie cutters assigning this craft to a girls scout troop and have this table next to or combined with **letters to Veterans**. Kristin spoke with Tracy Pennycuick who will share a link or address of where to send letters. Informally she's penciled the date on her calendar and will make every effort to attend.
- **Cornhusk Dolls** - Nancy has secured corn husks from a local farmer. A test dummy doll will be created when meeting with Molly occurs.
- **Tri-corner hats** Kristin shared a you tube video in an email that shows how to create origami sized hats using a single piece of construction paper. The committee liked the idea of purchasing larger plain paper so the hat could be worn. Some were concerned about use of newspapers as more messy and toxic ink ingredients. Either way the committee liked the idea of adding this make and take craft. Possible girl scouts or key club could man this craft table.

4. Entertainment:

A. Founder Performers: Almost all entertainment contracts have been signed. Tiff's working excels sheet shows the detailed list of signed and the few remaining.

Uncle Sam on Stilts – Contract signed- Michon

Betsy Ross- Contract signed- Michon & Katie

Ben Franklin – Contract signed- Michon & Katie

Ned Hector – Mich

on is finalizing contract with Noah and based on his usually being on stage will suggest a table or some other station set up to accommodate his form.

George and Martha – have been contacted and are available. Tiff is in touch.

B. Civil War Reenactors: Bonny was absent but had communicated that she'd reach out to her Civil War reenactors for participation. She suggested 8-12 Infantry that would possibly set up a tent or two with military memorabilia/ artifacts to show. Bonny liked the idea of the Civil war soldiers having a trivia question.

C. SAR- Victor was absent but at last contact- He shared (with no promises made) that his SAR higher ups were not only considering coming / participating in the opening Ceremony for our June 25 th event but also **possibly they would host a Memorial Service that afternoon at General Nash's Graveside**. Joyce and Kristin said they thought the Township (especially the Veterans committee) would love to participate. All the committee liked the idea.

D. Paul Revere Story time -The idea of this story or some other for small children was not discussed at this meeting. Should be hashed out in the next couple.

5. Food – Katie shared that she typically charges \$150 per truck and has secured an American Barbecue that will include Hotdogs and Hamburgers to go along with the Italian and Mexican previously confirmed. It was discussed that maybe at least one other American (specifically hamburgers and / or hotdogs) offering be sought.

- The committee requested Kona ice and Mr. Softee trucks. Katie will follow up.
- The option of a Pie table is still up in the air. Kristin will reach out to the 3 Legged Haire since she has mutual contact to see if they'd like to participate.

6. Decorations: Sources for buntings for the park are being searched by Kristin with Eric's (Finance Director) help– comparisons and calculations will be shared with

the committee at the March meeting and handed over to PW to check options, calculations and finalize an order for the right amounts.

7. Volunteers- **Scouts**, **Key club**, and **ROTC** advisors have all been reached out to and are poised for participation. Katie will contact Key Club to finalize our specific requests for each closer to April / May. **Michael** shared his contact for **ROTC** w/ Tiff to send a save the date.

8. Color Guard Parade: The Committee agreed that in addition to the SAR, DAR & CAR, we would invite the local Veterans, NPHS ROTC, & local Scout Troops to all join a Color Guard parade / ceremony. The parade will march from top of driveway at the parking lot, down to the pavilion to shorten the walk for especially older participants.

- a) Pledge of Allegiance and singing of National Anthem will open the Ceremony. Stacy, in attendance, explained the traditional inclusion of a short prayer. She described that it is part of typical color guards and could be written as more of a statement of intention. She will create a suggested version that should not offend any religion or non – believers. It will be shared and discussed further at the next meeting.
- b) Victor had provided a trimmed Declaration which he emailed to Joyce and Krisitn – if read in Proclamation style, he believes a Jefferson persona would be best. It is 10 minutes still so may need more discussion as to how much and how to include. This was briefly discussed again with no definite conclusion except a suggestion to have it offered at a table with a few hard copies of the full Declaration to show. Length of a single proclamation from the stage and possible distraction is a consensus concern. An idea to have a table (possibly manned by ROTC, SAR or Scouts) with a recording of the Declaration to play on loop. Tabled to ask Victor's opinion at next meeting.

9. Music: 1) Contract is back for the Montgomery County Band as a definite from 7PM-9PM

2) Katie heard from The Liberty Bells who will perform for a half hour @ \$300 Nancy has reached out to her contact for Dock HS Choir to ask if they would perform patriotic songs from @5:45=@6:30 including possibly the National Anthem at our opening. The committee agreed a choir would offer a different type of music entertainment with simple set up at start / event opening and easy transition to the Montco Band.

10. Bussing As the least cost, Metz was contacted and confirmed to be able to provide 3 busses. All voted to engage Metz. Katie will be following up on getting a signed contract

11. Budget – Approved as submitted at the 12/10 BOS meeting.

12. Additional Needs: to discuss in the coming meeting

Katie will request an upgraded **sound system** to purchase or if too costly rent. Kristin brought it up at a Finance Committee meeting. Dave Kraynik suggested we look at both costs first but investment in owning a better sound system could be evaluated.

The Additional light tower has been acquired for \$193.00

*Securing one more Character (perhaps a Jefferson who would be at a station sharing the Declaration) may be explored.

Specific donation asks:

S'more ingredients – Shoprite, Weiss, etc.

Bags from banks (per Nancy's suggestion) for kids to carry their crafts

Sourcing / ordering Sticker prizes,

13. Timeline: A general outline of the evening was discussed and will be fine-tuned as plans are firmed. Thus far it is as follows: Open 5:30 PM with a color guard and township announcements including 1. Thanking sponsors, 2. introducing the historical characters (who will then float amongst the crowd / some may be at a table) and 3. Turn the stage over to our music groups. Attendees may remain to watch music performances or listen to the sounds as they wander amongst the many activities/ stations/ food offerings as described above. The event will close with the drone show. Attendees and contributors will be allowed to leave by 8:30 PM at which time the drone show will be setting up and executing 8:30-9:30 Fine tuning of this outline will be ongoing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Warner

(Supervisor Liaison)