

Meeting Minutes America 250 Committee 10th meeting

Monday April 13 @ 5:30 PM

Next Meeting – Monday May 18 @6:30 PM

***Craft Preparation Monday May 18 5 PM**

Committee Attendees: Committee Cochairs Michon Blake (OSPAC) and Tiffany Stanton ran the meeting, Joyce Snyder and Kristin Warner (Supervisor Liaisons), Katie Cleary (Events), Nancy Becker (OSPAC), Victor Verbeke (SAR & Montgomery Historical Society), Michael Lewis (Veterans), Stacy Spizziri (Sr Vice Commander Chaplin), Mohana Padgaonkar (International Festival Foundation)

- **Guests:** SGT Major and Mrs. Robert Storm (NPHS ROTC Leader), Sue & Bill Weir (playing George and Martha Washington) and Leon Kashishian (resident historian)

Absent: Molly Jobson (Morgan Log House Director), Holly Hayick (DAR), Grace Seelig (DAR), Joanne R. Cowles (Dar) Bonny Forbes (Civil War infantry)

Michon opened the meeting with a request for approval of last month's – meeting #9 minutes. Katie motioned, Michael seconded and all said aye.

Michon and Tiffany asked for confirmation of games, crafts and activity ideas and between now and May meeting will confirm with girl and boy scouts both activities and crafts. Historical Societies will be asked if they want to host a game or craft. Key club and other volunteer sources will be assigned to each table as needed. **They have started a general timeline for the evening. All will firm up at the May 18th 6:30 PM meeting.**

***** The first craft prep session will take place also Monday May 18 @ 5PM**

Katie (events) provided an overview map with general location suggestions. She will also reach out to food trucks not yet confirmed. The committee will complete the timeline and an events map as priority during the May 18th meeting if not prior.

Promotion and Invites: Paper invites should be mailed by Mid April.

1. **Michelle Sepulveda (Township Communications)** has added our Township 250 event blurb to Montgomery County's events page and has begun including the save the date every three weeks (so as not to become stale) on township blasts. From Mid-May through June it will be included on every blast. She and Katie created the save the date, a sponsor request and our formal invitation in an approved proclamation style.
2. **Katie (events)** 1. Katie received two monetary sponsorships totalling @\$700. She will report additional donations by email. Joyce and Kristin may follow up by phone with any not heard from by end of April. All who donate will be thanked during the opening ceremony.

Katie also shared a **banner** mockup. It was decided to keep wording simple and keep it specific to the event date. Subsequently Katie modified her creation, and received email approval from Joyce, Kristin, Michon and Tiffany. An order for two identical banners is being placed and once received will be hung across the 40 ft Road pedestrian bridge upon receipt.

*****A heartfelt Thank you to Katie and Michele for your continued promotion of, time and effort on behalf of Towamencin and America 250! *****

EVENT ACTIVITIES:

1. **OPENING Color Guard** – SGT Major Robert Storm (NPHS ROTC) will conduct a color guard with at least 4 NPHS ROTC hopefully more. He'll invite said ROTC volunteers to assist event happenings after the color guard. Victor reconfirmed that his DAR contacts are planning to attend and participate in the opening ceremonies.

2. ENDING Drone show- The *100 drone show to close our evening has been confirmed. Possible sponsorship is still a desire. It was determined that based on No soliciting signs at many of our local businesses we'd have the staff mail the Invite and Donor request; to be done ASAP. Kristin and Joyce will follow up on any not heard from in a timely manor.

3. IN BETWEEN Activities:

A. Petting Zoo- Contracted

B. Face - Painting: Contracted

C. Games-

- **13 Colonies Trivia**- questions listed for answer with a map of the colonies for collection of stickers on the opposite side.
- **Shut the box** Molly will provide several mini square cloths divided into 9 numbered squares. Kristin will lend a larger board game.
- **Corn Hole**- Morgan Log House is being gifted will at least 3 sets possibly 4 (they are being made now by NPHS vo tech). Public Works will need to pick them up from MLH after Molly's tournament event.

***** A to do list for PW pre and during the event should be created at the next committee meet.**

D. Crafts:

Molly created instruction sheets which have been copied for hand out that explain the process for Cornhusk dolls, potato stamps and shut the box

Scouts, ROTC, and possibly some Historical Society tables will be asked to host a craft and letters to the military.

- **Ball and Cup** (save your cardboard egg cartons)- Egg cartons will be divided and strings attached at the Craft preparation session 5 PM May 18 in the meeting room. Beads need to be ordered and will be chosen and attached as a mini craft by the recipient.
- **Potato Stamps** – patriotic cookie cutters lent by Kristin will be used to create the cutout potato stamp – to be prepped at a group craft session 1-3 days in advance of the event

- **Cornhusk Dolls** – Husks to be ordered via amazon and soaked a day in advance.

*******The potatoes should be cut long ways and kept cold up to stamping or they will deteriorate upon use.** Kristin and Joyce are **requesting a craft prep meeting separate from the normal committee meeting 2-3 days in advance of 6/25 possibly including scout troops** to prepare the husks and potato stamps and cup and ball crafts. Scouts should be communicated with ASAP. If not interested key club or other volunteers must be recruited.

- **5 point stars**- Kristin showed a simple method that involves folding origami style with one scissor cut to create a perfect 5-point star. Blue and red light card stock -square shaped- to be ordered.
- **Coloring book handouts and game / craft instructions**- Molly shared her creation of these items. @ 300 of the coloring books (double sided) and @ 5 copies of each of the craft and game instructions have been completed.
- Letters to military : Stacy and Michael will provide sample letters and host this as part of the Veterans 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.

George and Martha – were present and confirmed their participation and that their son is available to sing the National Anthem.

Thomas Paine- per Nancy Alan Gold (International Festival Foundation) has volunteered to play the part of Thomas Paine.

Uncle Sam on Stilts – Contract signed- Michon

Betsy Ross- Contract signed- Michon & Katie

Ben Franklin – Contract signed- Michon & Katie

Ned Hector –contract signed

B. Civil War Reenactors: unknown as to participation. Bonny absent will be contacted and asked if her group still intends to participate.

C. Stacy shared that the Veterans would like to pitch a tent and display revolutionary era rifles and other paraphernalia.

E. **SAR**- Victor shared that he's still in contact with his SAR peeps who plan to participate in the opening Color guard. 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.

F. Historical Tables:

- Victor will host a table to promote the Historical Marker – commemorating George Washington and the Great American Army encampment within Towamencin Township boundaries during the Autumn of 1777. The State agency that created the marker is being asked if a high resolution image exists. If so a

poster sized image will be ordered from it. Plan B – we'll ask local photo buffs to take one. It's been determined that the marker is too heavy to unpack and move more than once to its forever location.

****Victor suggested the creation of a map of Towamencin history to be handed out to especially children attendees. Joyce shared that Veterans has one and will look into having copies made available.**

*****Victor also shared that Dr. Young emphasized the importance of our hosting this event with our history at it's forefront. (paraphrased)**

- Brian Hagey will have a table to promote Towamencin History- old mile markers have been requested for display. PW's is on task.
- Dr. Young will have a table for Montgomery County history

***** The above 3 tables should be adjacent to one another**

- The Veterans Committee would also like to have a table possibly with a tent to share the details of that historical encampment.
- Per Michael the American Legion may request a table depending on space and volunteer availability.
- Tiffany is keeping a list of other local Montgomery County historical societies that wish to participate.

*****Kristin suggested offering these groups to host one of the crafts or games the committee has created as an additional attraction to their table. This may alleviate the number of volunteers needed and encourage attendees to visit all the tables. Joyce suggested spreading the crafts and games amongst the historical tables in an every other.**

G. Story time -Michon shared a few books including The Ride of Paul Revere to have a key club or some other reading near the petting zoo. All agreed to offer at least one possibly two book readings at set intervals.

5. Food – No new information – prior **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 / or Mr. Softee trucks. Katie has reached out but had not connected with either yet. She figures Softee with their multiple trucks should say yes.

6. Decorations: Kristin reported that Steve McMasters recieved all buntings and is determining how they'll be hung. They should be hung early June, possibly by Memorial Day.

7. Volunteers- **Scouts**, **Key club**, and **ROTC** have all been reached out to and are poised for participation. Katie will contact Key Club to finalize our specific requests early May.

8. The **Declaration of Independence reading** will be played on a loop. Katie is securing a sound system for this table to be placed at the further end of the historical tables so as not to and for the Arneith stage. it to those who ar

9. Music:

- 1) Liberty Bells (contracted) will perform after color guard and opening ceremony (@5:45-6:30)
- 2) Montgomery County Band as (contracted) 7PM-9PM

10. Bussing Metz was contacted and confirmed to be able to provide 3 busses.

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

12. Additional Needs:

- Katie has sought a better sound system for the main stage as well as a smaller one for the Declaration of independence reading loop.
- The Additional light tower has been acquired.

Specific donation asks:

S'more ingredients – Shoprite, Weiss, etc.

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

Trinkets and sets of dice for the shut the box cloth game boards

Sourcing / order request:

Corn husks – need 4 husks per doll- estimate @ 400 husks per 100 dolls

5 lb bag has @300 husk bags on Amazon = @ 75 dolls @ \$45.00 Suggesting order three 5 lb bags = \$135.00 or @ 225 dolls

Twine for both dolls and Cup & ball

Light card stock (blue and red) for 5 point stars (200 sheets of 6X6) = \$11.19

Star sticker for individual Colony trivia prize

Mini American 250 flags for all trivia answered prize

Beads for cup and ball,

Potatoes and Paints for potato stamps

Heavier stock paper for potato stamps and letters to military

****** An Amazon order will be created for Township staff**

13. Mapping & 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.

- **Mapping:** The committee will determine specific locations of each item and a timeline of events that Katie will translate into a Map and Script as she does for all Township events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Warner

(Supervisor Liaison)