

Middlebury Bicentennial Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on June 7, 2007
Shepardson Community Center

Present: Chairman Raymond Pietrorazio

Members Terrence McAuliffe, Robert Desmarais, Ronald Vitarelli

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raymond Pietrorazio at 7:08 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes: The minutes of the May 3, 2007 meeting were reviewed and motioned by Ron Vitarelli to accept, seconded by Bob Desmarais, and unanimously accepted.

3. New Co-Chairman: Ray Pietrorazio motioned that Dennis Small join the co-chairmanship, bringing the number to five. Ray observed that having an odd number of co-chairman would be helpful in tie-breaking. Bob Desmarais seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Video Premiere: Terry McAuliffe reported that the Video Premiere and Senior Video showings were well received. He reported sending thank-you letters to the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary, as well as the Police Benevolent Association for these fine and elegant affairs. Terry also noted that there were 13 videos sold at \$25 and 28 videos sold to seniors at \$20 for a total of \$885 at those events. The video is being sold at A Latte More, Dominick and Vinnie's Pizza, Four Corners Grocery Store, Middlebury Park & Rec, Middlebury Pharmacy, Middlebury Public Library, Middlebury Senior Center, Middlebury Town Clerk's office, Perrotti's Pizza and Pub, Quality Consignment, Quassy Amusement Park, and Sullivan's Jewelers. The rights to the video will be transferred to the Middlebury Historical Society upon dissolution of the Bicentennial Committee and the Historical Society holds the copyright and the rights to follow on videos. Terry quoted a price of about \$25,000 for a companion DVD that could contain additional material not covered in the first DVD, such as the churches, service organizations, police department, and more lengthy interviews. No action was taken to pursue this follow-on.

5. Greenway Walk: Bob Desmarais noted that the Greenway Walk had some missteps that could have been caught with a more thorough final review. Yet, despite the problems, he reported that there was interest by the Greenway Committee and Park & Rec to repeat the walk on a yearly basis. The \$500.00 donation by Connecticut Combustion Corporation was not used for the Greenway Walk so the money will be used for the Drama Production with the OK of CCC's president, Ray Pietrorazio.

6. Memorial Day Parade: Bob Desmarais reported that the Memorial Day parade was particularly well attended and that the bicentennial floats by the Lions Club, Lou Orsini, and the Middlebury Community Women's Club were impressive. All agreed. Bob noted that the Bicentennial Tree from Lou Orsini's float was now in the library as a fun reading site.

Terry McAuliffe reported that his wife Arlene had taken video of the parade and ceremony and that SKYE cable also had video. He agreed to see whether this footage could be saved in the vault along with the bicentennial video tapes.

7. Fundraising Recognition: Ron Vitarelli distributed a number of pages containing event sponsor names and the recognition that was promised for each level of sponsorship. He is using these pages to track the recognition and to allow others in the committee to help with recognition responsibilities. It was determined that the platinum sponsors would get a plaque similar to the one given to the video sponsors. Gold and Silver sponsors would get a traditional wood plaque with ornament. The levels below Silver would not get a plaque but instead a certificate with the logo.

8. Event Review Calendar: Ron Vitarelli proposed a June 13th work session at Maples to set a calendar of reviews.

9. Historical Society Tour: Robert Rafford and Harold West suggested coordinating a Historical Society Tour with the Ice Cream Social and Tree Planting ceremony on September 2nd. This would be an independent project and simply coordinated with the social event for publicity. There was agreement after some discussion.

10. VOICES Commemorative Guide: Ron Vitarelli distributed a revised Table of Contents for the Bicentennial Publication being produced by Voices.

11. Commemorative Items: Ray Pietrorazio reported that the bicentennial wine bottle is not viable due to the overall price of bottle, wine, packaging, and shipping. He also noted that the knit shirts would shortly be available at Park & Rec in limited quantities and could be increased if sales warrant. Robert Rafford reported that Robin Fenn's coin prototype was ready for production at a cost of about \$7.50. A box is available to hold the coins but still needs a setting to hold it firmly. There was some discussion about a plastic enclosure for the coin, but no action was taken.

12. Bicentennial Banner: Ray Pietrorazio reported that the banner would be hung across Route 64 just before it joins with 188 west of the Middlebury Garage.

13. Drama Production: Terry McAuliffe reported that the Drama Production was holding to the schedule of conducting auditions in late July after publicity in early July.

14. Bocce Tournament: Bob Desmarais reported that the Bocce Tournament was still on the calendar for July 7th.

15. Teaching Guide: Terry McAuliffe reported that he and Arlene would be contacting the Bee-Intelligencer with a proposal to coordinate the teaching guide with the publication of the historical articles that they have been publishing.

16. The Bicentennial Garden Tour is an independent project being conducted by the Middlebury Garden Club. Publicity is being coordinated with other bicentennial events, but otherwise it is independently run and sponsored.

17. Financial: Dennis Small reviewed the status of the checking account and there was some discussion on the need for more fund raising. Ed Noonan is continuing to review the expenses and revenue of past events and pull together a worksheet for future events and expenses.

18. Bicentennial Ball: Lou Orsini gave a brief review of the Bicentennial Ball and passed out the prototype “save the date” invitation cards that will be sent out. Sponsors will be given one free couple invitation and otherwise will need to purchase tickets. Ticket sales will be initially limited to Middlebury residents, then open to the public if not sold out.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Committee, the Committee adjourned the meeting @ 9:00 p.m., by motion of Ron Vitarelli, seconded by Bob Desmarais, and unanimously voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence McAuliffe

June 24, 2007