

Middlebury Bicentennial Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on January 10th, 2008
Shepardson Community Center

Present: Chairman Raymond Pietrorazio

Members present: Terrence McAuliffe, Robert Desmarais, Ronald Vitarelli,
and Dennis Small.

Others present: Robert Rafford, Edward Noonan.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raymond Pietrorazio at 7:00 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the November 8th, 2007 meeting were reviewed and motioned by Robert Desmarais to accept, seconded by Ronald Vitarelli, and unanimously accepted.

3. **Financial Report** – Dennis Small presented an updated ledger of checks and payments which was inspected by the committee. Ronald Vitarelli asked for an approximate estimate of remaining funds which Mr. Small estimated at about \$11,000, pending final closing of books.

Edward Noonan suggested that the amount of \$550 per year for two years be budgeted to Blum-Shapiro for professional tax preparation necessary for 501 (3)(c) accounting. Ray Pietrorazio suggested that this be prepaid now to allow full closing of the books.

Ray Pietrorazio proposed that the March 6th meeting be targeted to finalize 2007 and prepare for 2008 tax liabilities, etc., to allow closing of books.

4. **Commemorative Items** – Terry McAuliffe presented a written inventory of video sales showing only one sales account still to be collected. There are 219 DVDs still on hand. There were 83 complimentary DVDs and there were 285 presumed sold or still for sale. All video receipts were turned in to Dennis Small and appeared on his report. Ronald Vitarelli reported that some commemorative collections were still outstanding and should be collected by the Feb 7th meeting.

5. **Funds Disposition** – There were a number of suggestions for a fitting use of money available in the bicentennial account, including the idea of a starting fund for the next tercentennial, suggested by Bob Desmarais. Ray Pietrorazio reported that that he had spoken to the Selectmen and they were supportive of anything that the Bicentennial Committee decided was appropriate. Ray Pietrorazio will review the 501 (3) (c) responsibilities and a final decision will be made at the Feb 7th meeting.

6. New Business

a. Terry McAuliffe reported that the Naugatuck Historical Society sold 10 Chauncey Judd Videos and may want to buy more. We had limited Joe Colombatto to fulfill orders up to

December 31, 2007. Terry McAuliffe asked if there was objection to **continued Chauncey Judd orders** through March 31, 2008. There was no objection.

b. Terry McAuliffe reported that bicentennial video sales continue on **Amazon.com**. He asked if there was any objection to continuing those sales with future proceeds going to the Middlebury Historical Society. He is holding 10 DVDs for such sales. There was no objection.

c. Terry McAuliffe asked if there was any objection to arranging for **public access cable broadcast of “Chauncey Judd” and the “Bicentennial Video”**. This would make these productions available to many residents who had not seen them. Terry McAuliffe stated that actor and interviewee release forms had been signed in anticipation of such broadcasts. There was no objection.

d. Ronald Vitarelli proposed that unsold Bicentennial DVDs be offered to Real Estate Agencies as part of a **package that included the DVD and the commemorative publication**. Such a package would be appealing to buyers unfamiliar with Middlebury. Ronald Vitarelli will work with Terry McAuliffe to develop the idea further.

e. Terry McAuliffe brought in a collection of **CD photo disks** produced by David Marselinas. Mr. McAuliffe had used these for the web site and wanted them stored properly. After some discussion of storage options and possible purchase of a storage cabinet the disks were given to Bob Rafford for the Middlebury Historical Society.

f. Terry McAuliffe reminded that there were **219 Bicentennial DVDs** remaining. He proposed transferring all of them to Bob Rafford of the Middlebury Historical Society and it was agreed that the MHS would decide on future distribution to libraries, schools, sales, etc.

g. Ray Pietrorazio asked the group for comments on the **Voices Commemorative Edition**. It was agreed that this edition did not meet expectations. Comments included a lack of photographic coverage of the events and the poor paper quality and poor finish of materials used. This was not a high quality paper worthy of a collectable. Favorable comments were complimentary of Bob Rafford’s excellent writeups.

7. Public Input

Mary Conser asked about follow-ons to the successful bicentennial events. Ray Pietrorazio answered that Paul Perrotti was planning to host more Bocce tournaments. Mr. Pietrorazio also stated that Lou Orsini and Betty Proulx were working to develop one or more summer concerts in a series that might continue from year to year. They were also developing a proposal for a band shell that might be constructed in one of the Middlebury Parks.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Committee, the Committee adjourned the meeting @ 8:30 p.m., by motion of Ronald Vitarelli, seconded by Terry McAuliffe, and unanimously voted in favor.

The next meeting date will be Thursday February 7th, 2008 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence McAuliffe

February 5, 2008