

**The Eliot Maine State Bicentennial Committee met on June 24, 2019 at 4:30pm at the William Fogg Library.**

PRESENT: Lydia Goodwin (William Fogg Library), Janice Cerabona (Eliot Historical Society), Rosanne Adams (Eliot Historical Society)

ABSENT: Kim Brooker (Kennebunk Savings Bank), Margaret Morse (John F. Hill Grange), Cindy Waters (Eliot Festival Day Committee), John Murphy (Eliot Select Board), Ann Shisler (Eliot Elementary School), Diane Rappuchi (Eliot Elementary School), Wendy Rawski (town liaison)

PUBLIC PRESENT: State Representative and citizen Michele Meyer

NOTE: Due to the lack of a quorum no decisions were made, only discussion.

It was noted that the meetings of the Committee are using (until voted otherwise) the previously established agenda which has 1) Reports 2) Review of Calendar of Events and progress 3) Action items. To this would now be added "Public Input" (it's placement to be decided when we have a quorum)\*.

\*Before the Committee was formalized by the Select Board, anyone who came to the meeting was always given a place at the table and automatically became a part of the committee.

## DISCUSSION

It was noted that Ann and Diane had a conflicting schedule today and could not attend, Cindy is out of town and Margaret is ill. Janice reported that she had reached out to several committees and organizations, some of whom she had hoped would be represented at today's meeting including, Kyle, from the Community Service Department, Cari Quater of OBHS and Mike Zamarchi at the High School.

We discussed the purpose of the committee and possible events for the year long calendar with our State Representative Michele Meyer.

The goal of the committee is to have at least one (1) bicentennial event each month from Sept. 2019 to Sept. 2020 and with Eliot Festival Day, as our starting and ending date, to help revitalize it by encouraging participation in the parade and event. The Committee will encourage groups to build on what they are already doing in the community such as the programs at the Library, Eliot Historical Society, Police and Community Service and other town committee sponsored events that might fit well with the Maine Bicentennial theme. The Committee will also publicize the events during the year.

Michele informed us that there is to be a State Bicentennial Parade in Lewiston in the spring which we, the town, might want to participate in. We agreed that that would be an important event to be a part of. Michele suggested the use of social media to get the word out about what we are doing and wished to be kept informed and said she would help in any way she could.

We looked at the year long calendar of events (attached) and talked about some of the elements including:

- the "Story Book Walk" and "History Book Club" read, sponsored by the Library. If Library funding for purchasing the books falls through, they need a back up plan. A grant may not be possible but it was suggested that maybe businesses would sponsor the "History Book Club" read. The book will be "Mostly My Maine" by Walter Staples. This book read, in the fall/winter, will be followed in the spring by a tour of the places that are mentioned in the book. Janice noted that at the October meeting of the Historical Society the Staples family will present and talk about the memoirs of Victor Staples, Walter's father, which are included in "Mostly My Maine". This talk will help to introduce the upcoming book read.

- A "Grange Week" featuring farm tours (Backfields, Shiloh, Sandy Hill, Shultz, Kashmer, Leavitt, Raitt, King Tut, Bartlett Farms, Bondgarden, etc); events at the Grange such as flower arranging/art contests, and maybe a farmer's market, possibly an historical display and a reconstruction of the town office that was once at the Grange. Will be inviting individuals and businesses to participate, from those who sell eggs to CSA's.

- Encouraging High Schoolers to offer a tour of the "timeline" at the school. Possibly design additional timeline pieces to bring it up to 2020? Might be in conjunction with an Adult Education program offering?

- An April "Good Neighbor Community Clean Up Day" in conjunction with possibly the High School Students (Mr. Zamarchi's class holds a community service day each year), Conservation Commission (who already holds a clean up in April around Earth Day), Garden Club (who may have some projects needing assistance with) and the Aging in Place Committee (who may have community members in need of cleaning up their yards). Possibility of promoting this event as a way for High School students to earn community service credits toward graduation?

- A tie-in with "Dr. Fogg's Birthday" celebration at the Library (May 23)

- A tie-in with "Maple Sugar Sunday" in March. Michele said Backfields Farm was going to be involved this coming year and suggested perhaps Orland McPherson and Skip Warner, if he is still sugaring. Perhaps in some way

involve the Second grade Elementary School children who make their own maple syrup each year.

- The "Seed Book" that was begun by the Library is being looked at as a possible joint project for the Eliot Garden Club and PEEPS
- A poster contest "My Favorite Part of Eliot" is being looked for the children in the school district - facilitated by the art teachers at their respective schools.

It was noted:

- that we have several "core events" sponsored by the Eliot Historical Society, the School, and the William Fogg Library, around which the calendar of events is being built (see attached).
- that committee members are continuing to reach out to people and organizations to become a part of the celebration and to spear-head events that either have been suggested and/or ones of their own choosing.
- that at the next meeting it will be important to have commitments for as many events as possible so that they can be publicized in the Community Service bulletin and elsewhere this fall.
- that a press release was being worked on and should be ready soon

Next meeting is July 22 at 4:30pm at the William Fogg Library.

Respectfully submitted

Rosanne M. Adams