



Concord 250: Community Participation Subcommittee
Minutes of the 2:00 pm January 7, 2025, Meeting (at the Hunt Gym)

Present: Holly Cratsley, Chair; Nancy McJennett, Clerk; Faye Allen, Joe Zellner, Maynard Forbes, Radha Jalan, Molly Eberle, Court Booth, Jeanine Calabria, Mardi Hutchinson (left 3 pm) **Absent:** Julia Farwell-Clay, Polly Meyer

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm

Minutes of December 2024 meeting were unanimously accepted as read.

Executive Committee Updates: (Holly)

- **No updates.** Exec. Comm meets Jan. 9. All are urged to **sign up for Ambassador training** at CCHS on Jan. 11. Recruit your friends. **Court Booth has volunteered to coordinate** the Ambassadors.

Essay Award Ceremony Review: (Joe)

- **The meeting congratulated the Essay team** on a job well done. There were 39 submissions and 5 winners. The award ceremony was well organized and very successful. Kudos!

Town Decorations & Merchant Engagement event, Jan. 17 (Faye & Holly)

- **Jan. 17 event** will be at Wright Tavern from 7:45-9 am. **Filling up fast, may move to First Parish** parlor.
- **Faye will have a table** with sample flower boxes, baskets.
- **Mimi is going door-to-door** with fliers
- **Will try to have two interior decorators present** to help stores that want it.

Parade (Court)

- **Rumors that the Parade map is incorrect are incorrect!**
- **The parade needs CCHS** to set up.
- **May ask groups to trim** numbers if gets too big. UMass Marching Band is signed up.

Food Trucks (Holly and Jeanine)

- **3 locations:** Behind the PO; In front of Umbrella on Stow St.; By the train station. (Court thinks the MBTA has plans for that space – stay tuned.)
- **Sent emails to 40 purveyors;** 6 have signed up so far. **Will expand** to surrounding states.
- **Asking local restaurants** to offer tents.
- **Jeanine will share her Wachusett Mountain** list of purveyors and the woman to contact there. Muddy Water in Cambridge already has a permit; an Indian food truck is coming.

Historic Flags Distribution on March 1: Faye needs help on the day.

Town Decorations

- **Not much to report;** waiting for location of viewing stand.
- Has **the Monument Square flagpole** been inspected yet? Faye got approval for 4 additional flags on the Parade route
- Painting of the PO is approved; waiting to fix the windowsills first!

- Faye looked at the John Cummings house near MCI as a location for a historic house flag. Tho it's in tough shape., the meeting encouraged her to put one there anyway.

Bicycle Event – Revere’s Ride - on May 17: (Court)

- **No recent meeting.** Will meet next week.
- **Routes are established;** so far, a 21-mile loop and a 30-mile loop.
- **Kids of a certain age** will ride free. There will be no peer-to-peer fundraising.
- **Food trucks, beer tent, entertainment** on the Museum lawn.
- **PanMass Challenge will help;** lots of other sponsors too. This event is well organized.

Quilt Show (Mar.22-23), Ceramics (Molly & Faye)

- **Quit Show got a mention** in the New York Times today.
- **Publicity is needed.** Concord 250 Communications subcommittee will handle it.
- Faye is arranging **Quilts in Bloom, flower arrangements** by floral designers to accompany 8 quilts. There will be a boutique, kids’ activities, but no food. Quilters will be volunteers at the event.
- Mardi will try to find some **craft activities & teens to help.** (Crafts in upper level, not gym.)
- Could **Newbury Ct have a table for their ceramics?**
- The event is **featured in January “Discover Concord”.**
- Looking for an **online ticket vendor; TicketStage** looks likeliest.
- Need to line up **police detail.**

Day of April 19: How do we attract people to the Concord center after the parade?

- **Multi-cultural festival** possible. DEI Committee is connecting with cultural groups: Chinese working on **Dragon Dance**; Court is trying to organize **Taiko drumming.** **Mardi will mull** some ideas. **Scouts may offer a program** at the Scout House. **51 Walden** is looking for a movie.
- **Monument Hall is available** – no one has signed up for it yet.
- **Rec Dept is unclear on their roles as yet;** Mardi will be doing credentialling for everyone.
- **Ambassadors Program: 250 needed** with identifying vests. **All subcommittee volunteers** are encouraged to serve. **Court is in charge of volunteers.** **Set shifts** with a group captain, possibly walkie-talkies. Role is to provide immediate intervention (medical or otherwise) and hand off situation to the right resource. **First Ambassador training is Jan. 11, 9-12,** at CCHS (more to follow). **Recruit your networks.** Laura Darby of Middlesex School is helping; a draft plan is in the works. Maybe **online application forms.**
- **Water stations.** Two official so far: **North Bridge and ???.** This could be a natural for churches (**Nancy**). **Jeanine will help** Court recruit.

UPDATES

- **Drones.** No new info.

NEXT MEETING: February 4, 2025, 2 pm, at the Hunt Gym.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm

Respectfully submitted, --Nancy McJennett, Clerk pro-tem