



Concord 250: Community Participation Subcommittee
Minutes of the 2:00 pm January 16, 2024, Meeting (VIA ZOOM, due to snow)

Present: Holly Cratsley, Chair; Nancy McJennett, Court Booth, Molly Eberle, Mardi Hutchinson, Maynard Forbes, Polly Meyer, Julia Farwell-Clay. **Late arrivals:** Joe Zellner (2:25); Radha Jalan (2:20); Sally Seaver (2:25) **Guest:** Ingrid Detweiler

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm

- **Minutes of December 5, 2023**, Subcommittee Meeting were approved with no changes.
- **Executive Committee.** Joe presented the **Essay Contest proposal** to the Executive Committee. Our budget includes the \$2500 prize money, and there is also a potential donor. Mardi will post the contest on Facebook and Instagram and can help with printing fliers.
- **Essay Contest.** Joe created a submission form and rubrics, and info has been sent to all schools. Radha will be our link to The Bridge. Deadline for submission is April 30. Certificates of participation will be awarded as essays arrive, with winners announced in June. Names of potential judges should be sent to Radha ASAP.
- **Class of 2025 activities.** Now have contacts at 4 schools: Will Kemeza at CCHS, Erika Mills at Middlesex, Rob Monroe at CA, and Tremont School. Polly will contact Fenn. Possible Day of Service could be clean up after the parade. Holly asked John Arena if floats could be in the parade.
- **Seniors and activities list: 51 Walden** (Sandy Armstrong) could create original content for the 250th to perform at Senior Centers. **The Sax Quartet** (John Rabinowitz) can offer 45-min concerts. Other possibilities: **The Concord Museum** (Alison Shelly) host programs for seniors at the Museum. **Concord Guides** (Victor Curran) thru Beth Williams at the Visitor Center have a list of offerings. **Newbury Court** interested in making Concord250 mugs. The Umbrella has hosted the Bowls Project to benefit Open Table. Could Ag community donate produce for soup on Ag Day for a Soup Kitchen at the churches?
- **CCHS International Festival.** This is a school-focused event with no physical room to expand. Will observe this year and plan own event around UN Day or Flag Day, with dancing, art, music, and food trucks. Base at Emerson field or the Hunt Gym. Ingrid will ask if Rotary & Lions would sponsor. (Do not schedule 3rd week in September!) Other idea: **Community Colonial Breakfast** or dinner, with open-fire cooking and tents.
- **Churches.** Holly reports that First Parish is forming a committee for a food event. Also want to revive Pancake Breakfast. Soup Kitchen or Colonial Dinner might be a good fit for them.
- **Quilting Events for 2025.** Looks like major quilt show will be hosted by Lexington, likely at Carey Hall. Piecemakers will hang smaller pieces at Harvey Wheeler. Four guilds are involved and can have displays at multiple locations.
- **Spinning Event for Fall, 2024.** Will not be at the Old Manse, the date offered was not good and accessibility is a problem. Spinning Match protest now scheduled for Lexington Green on August 31. Julia is also applying for a grant from Freedom's Way.
- **Other activities in planning.** Wade Rubenstein is working on his **Bike to Freedom** plan. Not good to schedule on the weekend of April 19 as security will be otherwise occupied. No word on **Boat Flotilla**.
- **Items not reasonably anticipated.** Holly showed a paper lantern prototype to mass-produce and sell. Could have a lantern parade thru town. Potential **Town-wide Day of Service** with Rotary & Lions – Concord has connections with Bedford and Lexington Rotaries.

NEXT MEETING: February 6, 2024, 2 pm, at the Hunt Gym

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

--Nancy McJennett, Clerk pro-tem