

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

January 19, 2010

**Members Present** – Pamela & Pennie Smith, Jim Cornwell, Jeri Deyo, Priscilla Curtis, and Rick Kwiatkowski. **Members Absent** – Nancy Blackmer, Jill Kwiatkowski and Wendy Johnson. **Friends Present** – Pat Conrad-Wexler, Bob Barrus, Judy Cornwell, Kathy Reinig and Don Risatti. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. The minutes from the last meeting, January 5, were accepted as printed.

**Financial Report** – The following bills were paid since the last meeting: Don Risatti \$152.80; Athol Daily News \$182.40; Recorder \$193.82; Steve Raymond \$30.57. \$3,319.24 was deposited in the checking account. Our new balance as of January 15 is \$8,120.65.

**Travis LeDoyt** – Don Risatti is now giving 4 tickets for every \$100 donation. The following business' have made donations: Athol Savings Bank \$100; Kimball Cooke \$100; Pete's Tire Barn \$500; Witty's Funeral \$200. Others expected include Orange House of Pizza, Dean's Beans, Rodney Hunt, Workers' Credit Union, Hampshire, and Salvador. With all of the above committed donations, \$2,140 is still needed to break even. To date 32 Meet & Greet have been sold; out of a possible 284 floor tickets, 198 have been sold, 131 balcony seats have been sold out of 158, 7 handicapped tickets have been sold, and 65 out of a 100 higher priced seats in the balcony have been sold. According to Don, out of a possible 677 tickets, 433 have been sold. Carol Lauriat will sell the Bicentennial souvenirs that evening and Pennie & Pam Smith will have their own table with tickets for the Bicentennial Ball.

**Pancake Breakfast** – Next breakfast is February 6. We are expecting a larger crowd now that more people are aware. Pat Conrad-Wexler volunteered paper cups from home to replace the Styrofoam we are currently using. February 24 is the **Open House** for the new **Tully Fire Station** from 4-6 pm. Light refreshments will be served. The **Selectmen's Meeting** will be held in the North Orange Church at 6:30 and televised by AOTV.

**Bicentennial Ball** – Information will be given to the local newspapers as soon as the end of this week. A press release will be prepared for Carla Charter for her monthly column in the Recorder. The projected budget was reviewed. The following would be needed: 40 – 5 ft round tables @ \$8.75 each from Eric Whitman. Area needed for 10 people at each table is 10 square feet for each. The caterer will be \$8,780 for 400 tickets. \$800 for the music. Five judges and one MC (dinners) \$101.70; Prizes \$900; Police Officer \$160; Decorations \$1,030; Flowers \$400 and Advertising \$240; for a total budget of \$12,450. If all 400 tickets are sold, a profit of \$1,688.06 could be expected.

The advertised deadline for the caterer would be February 20 with the final count given on February 23. A meeting will be set up with the caterer and committee to view the area to be used at the armory. The following are to be asked to be judges: L. Doris Olson, Matt Parsons, Kathy Koonz, Mike Magee, and Karl Bittenbender. Gary Warder will be

asked to MC. The following business' will be asked to sell tickets: Bruce's Browser; Trailhead; and Flowerland as well as tickets available here at the Town Hall. Community Service will be used to clean the Armory prior to the event.

**Bicentennial Blast** – Wendy Johnson & Priscilla Curtis have sent out reminder bills to those providing vehicles for that day. Nan Hunt responded and will display her oldest and newest vehicles. Matt (dog) will be coming. (Maybe with handler; maybe not)

**North Orange Day** – July 24. Parade begins at 11 am. Many activities to follow thru out the day. **Basketball Game** – Rick has met with Polly Bixby & Karen Grzesik and the name our basketball team is Orange Hoopsters. Tickets have been ordered. The prices are \$10 adults, \$8 for students/seniors, and \$12 at the door. Six rooms have been donated for the team at the Colonial Hotel in Gardner.

**Harvest Parade** – Our committee met with the OBA recently. The route will remain from Pete's Tire Barn to Mahar. The vendors will set up in Butterfield Park and the car show will remain in its area. Letters have been prepared for approval. There are two letters for donations and two letters for participants for our committee and for the OBA. The letters will be jointly signed. A list of possible participants asked each year from the OBA was given to us. We also have our own list being careful not to pull from the OBA list. The same procedure will be used for the financial cost of the parade.

**Drag Racing** – Jim Cornwell reported that the September 11 show at the Airport is gaining a lot of interest. New posters should be ready by the end of February or beginning of March with more details. He has also been in contact with the Collings Foundation which has a B 1-7 and a B-24 (WWII Bombers) that are available for display. We would need to provide ramp space. Jim will take care of the necessary letters to get permission. This would be at no cost to us. Show cars are scare this year but he is actively pursuing some for a stand-alone event. He wondered about available locations.

Advertising our events on a portable sign in the center of town was discussed. It was decided that it would be possible to make our own and use the existing trailer on the premise until spring. Permission was asked and granted by David Frye.

**Henley Exhibit/Wine Tasting** – Jeri reported for Joanne Sahagian, who could not attend the meeting. She has contacted three key cheese farms in the area. None committed to being present. Chase Farm replied they were too busy in May. Westfield Farms felt it was too early for them to commit. Smith Cheese said they will donate cheese to be given out as samples with the wine but they cannot be present.. They suggested three kinds: gouda; cheddar; and havarti. We need to get back to them after we have chosen which cheese would go best with the kinds of wine we are serving. We would have to pick up the cheese and have someone prepared to cut it. We will get together soon to begin the selection of pictures and furniture we want to display.

A basket for fund-raising was presented to the committee. It was felt that the cost of each basket would not work for us. We need to focus on the items we already have for sale.