

CELEBRATE 400 COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 30, 2008 – 2:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Richardson, Jenkins and Yepsen; Liz Callaghan, Town of Waterford; Nelson Ronsvalle, Town of Halfmoon; Jen Ciulla, Publications Specialist; Kristina Reese, County Historian; Town Historians: Denise Murphy, Georgia Ball, Northumberland; Linda Sanders, Stillwater; Royann Blodgett, Milton; Laura Linder; Press.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Ms. Ciulla distributed a proposed event timeline for the “Explore Saratoga County” theme as follows:

- April - Kick-off event along the river
- May - National Bike Month
County-organized Bike Trail Day
Promote and utilize County-produced trail guide including trails from each town (one or more of walking, biking or driving tours).
Guide will be online only with an accompanying tri-fold brochure.
- June - National Trails Day
Should be June 6, 2009
Promote and utilize County-produced trail guide including trails from each town (one or more of walking, biking or driving tours)
Guide will be online only with an accompanying tri-fold brochure.
- June - Art Project in Schools
- County Partnering with schools to create projects in schools
- Teachers have been contacted and plans for a brainstorming session are in the works
- July - Kayakers resting in Schuylerville
- Events planned around visit
- July - Tent at the Saratoga County Fair
- Focus on how the whole county is connected to the river
- August or September – Lois McClure Schooner stop in Saratoga County
- August or September – Discounted Champlain (and Erie) Canal Boat Tours
- September – N’dakkina Native American Festival
- County Partnership on education activities
- October - Closing event along the river

Other Event Possibilities

- Fall 2008 Tulip Planting for May 2009 tulips
- Saratoga County Reads

- Steamship on Saratoga Lake
- Saratoga Springs Trolley Tours
- Saratoga Arts Fest

Mr. Richardson said that Mechanicville is thinking about linking hands across the river and perhaps having an arial picture taken of all the bridges in the county of people holding hands.

Mr. Wood suggested having “Hands Across the Bridges” as the kickoff event for the Quadricentennial celebrations in Saratoga County. Probably every community has a bridge of some significance, he said.

Mr. Richardson said he has spoken to the Mechanicville high school principal with regard to a Drama Club play, as well as murals or drawings from the elementary school students.

Mr. Wood said that there are a lot of summer youth programs, and tying in with the County Youth Bureau would be a good idea.

Mr. Bullock, Director of the Quadricentennial Commission gave a brief update on the Commission as follows: There has been \$4 million allocated from the State budget for the Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial, with \$45,000 provided to Saratoga County. Another \$45,000 will be split between Saratoga Springs and Schuylerville, with a county match required.

Communities, schools and non profit organizations will qualify for \$1,000 mini grants to be used for any relevant promotion. The state is encouraging local activities throughout the corridor from New York City to the Canadian border.

Mr. Wood distributed copies of the 2008 Community Mini-Grant Program Application to all committee members. The criteria for the mini grant program is as follows: The 2008-2009 Community Mini Grant Program has been developed to assist communities and schools in the Hudson and Champlain Valleys with their plans for the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the exploration of the Hudson River by Henry Hudson, and Lake Champlain by Samuel de Champlain and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton’s first steamship voyage on the Hudson River. Two hundred grants of up to \$1,000 each, will be awarded to communities for projects, events and programs that embody the theme of “Explore 400 years of Progress in the Environment, Energy, Innovation and Education.”

The deadline for applications for the grants is June 30, 2008.

Mr. Wood said that every town, village or city whether they have passed a resolution or not will be entitled to using the logo and eligible for a Flag. He encourages each municipality to pass the resolution.

Mr. Wood said Ms. Ciulla has developed a spreadsheet identifying which towns and villages within the county have passed resolutions. He noted that approximately half of the towns and villages in the county have already done so.

Mr. Wood said he would like to see the logo widely used such as on town web pages, county web pages, stationary, etc.

Ms. Ciulla encouraged all towns and villages that have dates of events in their municipality to contact her so that there will not be a conflict in scheduling events throughout the county. A master list is being compiled, and will then be forwarded to the state.

Mr. Richardson said the Mayor of Mechanicville has put a committee together, headed by Mr. Caprici, who is currently meeting with BOCES to see if the students will be able to produce a replica of the "Halfmoon".

Mr. Richardson said he and Mr. Wood attended a meeting at the Schuyler Mansion to support the Saratoga/Washington Partnership on the Hudson in dealing with the Saratoga National Park. At the meeting, the Musicians of Ma'alwyck, performed the "Poor Soldier" opera with music from the 1800's, and produced by Ann Marie Barker Schwartz. He said the performance was excellent and suggested that any municipality interested in pursuing this should contact them at (377-3623 or on their website at www.musciansofmaalwyck.org).

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 4th at 1:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom