

## **CELEBRATE 400 COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 4, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Jenkins, Yepsen; Jen Ciulla, Publication Specialist/BOS; Kristina Saddlemire, County Historian; Carolyn Weiss, Town of Hadley Historian; Merle Doud, Waterford Village Historian; Jamie Parillo, Saratoga Springs History Museum; Nelson Ronswalle, Town of Halfmoon; Laura Linder, Town of Charlton Historian; Dorothy Mitchell, Deputy Charlton Historian; Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

Chairman Wood requested everyone to share any information they receive with the appropriate people to bring them up to speed.

Chairman Wood stated Ms. Ciulla attended a meeting in Albany on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. She has information on reports that were presented, he said.

Ms.Ciulla gave a State Quadricentennial Commission Update:

- Update on State money:
  - \$45K to County
  - \$45K to be split among Town of Saratoga and City of Saratoga Springs
  - Final process and guidelines are being completed and money should be available soon
  - Process is flowing through DEC
- Update on mini-grants
  - First round (closed 4/30) is finished and grants awarded
  - If you were rejected, encouraged to submit again with a stronger Quad connection
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Round closes 6/30 - applications available on [exploreny400.com](http://exploreny400.com)
- Encourage people to announce their Quad-affiliation as they announce their 2009 events during 2008
- Meeting report:
  - Most recent meeting: May 23, 2008
  - Soft-opening on 4/12 with the world premier of 3 works about the Hudson at the Quadricentennial Hudson Concert at The Egg
  - Mid-Hudson Walkway Bridge had a groundbreaking
  - 2 PBS Documentaries:
    - Mt Lakes Television in Plattsburgh - 2 hr on Samuel de Champlain - premier in Plattsburgh in June 2009 at the Conference on NYS History, which will be Quad-branded

- WNET TV/Channel 13 in NYC committed to do a 1 hr on New Amsterdam's Dutch heritage - premier at the Conference of Teaching and Learning in NYC in March 2009
- Hudson River Valley Greenway, Canal Corporation, Lakes to Locks Passage & State of VT are assembling a Quadricentennial Legacy Trail System - hiking, biking & water trails from NYC Harbor to Canadian Border & into VT
- Underground Railroad Project - is working to educate citizens from NYC to Canada on how NY waters served as a pathway to freedom
- Creating a Hudson Valley Quadricentennial Farms, Restaurants and Cuisine Trail
- Working towards a floating museum on the canal barge Day Peckinpaugh - carry the story of NY from NYC to Canada and Vermont during 2009
- NYS Council for the Humanities is creating a mini-grant program to support the Quad - working with NYS Council for the Arts for a similar project
- Twin Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts (Columbia County to Canada) - created a Quad badge
- NYS Library is branding the Statewide Summer Reading Festival

Chairman Wood said Bob Bullock regrets he was unable to be here today, but he had a meeting with a member of the State Assembly.

Ms. Ciulla distributed copies of a Proposed Event Timeline:

Proposed schedule:

- **April** - Kick-off event along the river
  - **Researching Bridge Crossing & Aerial Photos**
- **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). - **Researching trails from each town**
  - **Will work to tie into Quadricentennial Legacy Trail System**
  - 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). - **Researching trails from each town; Contacted Saratoga National Historical Park for event on June 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Will work to tie into Quadricentennial Legacy Trail System**
  - 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
  - Art Exhibit
  - Teachers have been contacted and plans for a brainstorming session are in the works
- **July 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>** - Kayakers resting in Schuylerville
  - Events planned around visit - **Contacting Kayakers to see what prelim schedule is to find points where County residents could join in kayaking**
- **July** - Tent @ Saratoga County Fair
  - Focus on how the whole County is connected to the river
- **August or September** - Lois McClure Schooner stop in Saratoga County - **Contacted to see prelim schedule to find available dates**
- **August or September** - Discounted Champlain Canal Boat Tours - **Contacted to see prelim schedule to discuss best dates**
- **September** - N'dakkina Native American Festival
  - County Partnership on education activities?

Ms. Ciulla said we will be going with the theme of Explore Saratoga County. She said Ms. Saddlemire will do a synopsis of the Quadricentennial and what it means for Saratoga County, and we will be sharing that with municipalities. Ms. Saddlemire stated in September, the N'dakkina Native Americans will do special performances for school children, and they were looking for assistance in funding for promotion. Ms. Ciulla said we will be doing a Looking Forward event in October, but she said she does not have any great ideas for that as yet, but it will be something that focuses on the exploration continues.

Mr. Jenkins stated for April, they are looking at a hands across the river event from the Village of South Glens Falls and the City of Glens Falls. Our goal is that the Village is working with the City to cross over after the handshake to the Coopers Cave site and a walking trail site, but it seems like April may be early for that function, he said. Chairman Wood said the weather can be iffy in April. Ms. Linder asked what can be done in the rest of the County other than just at the river? She suggested something more Countywide from school to school. We need to involve the youth, she stated. Chairman Wood said we will have to go to the schools. Ms. Linder said maybe there can be some way of stringing people out to connect. Mr. Jenkins said we are in the process of cleaning up the river, and a lot of work has been done on Lake Champlain. He suggested having more emphasis on the environmental aspect. Ms. Linder stated the County is connecting between Champlain and the Hudson, and is there some kind of connection we can do in this County? Our water in this County is what brought people here, she said.

Ms. Saddlemire said we can focus on that at next year's Fair in July. Chairman Wood said streams were the interstate highways of our Native American days, and also the mineral waters of Saratoga Springs. Ms. Linder said and also the mineral waters in Ballston Spa.

Chairman Wood said Jim Bruchac called him yesterday afternoon. He is looking forward to participating in this event on the SPAC grounds, he said. Bob Bullock has been communicating with him, and he will be participating in Statewide activities, he added.

Chairman Wood stated Saratoga County is going to be awarded a grant of \$45,000, but he is not sure when. Hopefully, the details of when that will occur will be completed in the next couple of weeks, he said. That will be State money specifically for Saratoga County events. He said we are recommending each municipality that passes a Quadricentennial resolution will be eligible to receive \$500 of that grant. In exchange, we would ask any of those communities awarded this \$500 to place the State and County logo on their event information and using the phrase "Explore Saratoga County" and fly the State provided flag that they will receive for passing a resolution. He said Saratoga County will provide access to logos via the website and e-mail. Saratoga County will maintain a section on the County website updating local events, he stated. We are recommending that the Town of Saratoga and the City of Saratoga Springs not be eligible for this \$500 because a separate \$45,000 has been allocated for those two municipalities to share, he said.

Ms. Linder asked about local organizations being eligible for funds if they do something. Ms. Saddlemire said the money will go to units of local government first. Ms. Ciulla said we will be asking local governments to reach out to historical societies and Quad. brand their events, and that is part of the \$500.

Chairman Wood discussed other proposed County funding opportunities whereby the County will provide access to additional funds via a grant program. Funds will be provided to municipalities that have created a unique event for the Quad. celebration or have added a significant new Quad. part to an existing event. Up to \$1,000 matching grant (project cannot be wholly funded by Saratoga County – must show additional sources of income including a salary match). The grants committee will be a subcommittee of this Celebrate 400 Committee. Dates for deadlines, funding, reporting, etc. are to be determined based upon receipt of State money and County's 2009 budget. The City of Saratoga Springs and Town of Saratoga may not be eligible for this additional County funding since they are splitting a \$45,000 grant.

Ms. Saddlemire said in addition to those funds, you still have community mini grants up to \$1,000, and applications are due June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Chairman Wood stated all of this will be subject to the full Committee's approval.

Chairman Wood stated Mr. Bullock said that if you apply and get rejected for the mini grants, it would be because people did not tie the request close enough in to the

Quadracentennial. Mr. Bullock suggested that they tie this in stronger and redo the grant application and submit it by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Yepsen displayed an Explore New York 400 flag. One will be distributed to each municipality that passes a Celebrate 400 resolution. It is requested that it be flown in a visible location. Ms. Ciulla said she received a note from Barbara Fratianni, of the NYS Quadracentennial Commission, who said the flags will be sent out along with pins. If a municipality passed a resolution and did not submit it to her, they will need to do that, she said. She said she e-mailed Ms. Fratianni a list of municipalities that passed resolutions, but she wants to see the actual resolutions. Chairman Wood asked if individual organizations that pass a resolution would be eligible for a flag. Ms. Ciulla said it is her understanding any organization can pass a resolution. Chairman Wood said the more of these resolutions that get passed, the more flags will get distributed to be visible in the County. He said Ms. Fratianni will be sending the County a stack of 500 brochures promoting the Quad.

Ms. Ciulla said she has some event dates on her tracking form for Waterford, Town of Saratoga, Village of Schuylerville and Town of Halfmoon. She said she has created forms for event information just so we know what everybody is planning for 2009. Ms. Yepsen asked how the forms were being put out. Ms. Ciulla said Supervisors and Historians have all received them. I will upload it on the County website, and I will be happy to send them to anyplace Supervisors would like me to, she said.

Mr. Ronsvalle said every Wednesday night, they have a concert in the town. Next year, they will be devoting other things to the Quad. Ms. Saddlemire said the Village of Schuylerville has a band a week. Even if you do not know who the performer is, you can still put it on the schedule, she said. Mr. Ronsvalle said their town historian and the historical society have lots of ideas. It is starting to get traction, he added.

Ms. Linder said she wants to make sure that expenses for the historians are being budgeted to account for transportation to these meetings. We need to take that into consideration, she said. Chairman Wood said we have started to put a preliminary budget together, and we are looking for some additional County financial support. It is our hope there will be some County level funds made available to support these planning events, he said.

Ms. Saddlemire said if a municipality has not put together its own committee, it is very important that they do so. The municipal committee reports to the County committee which reports to the State committee, she added.

Chairman Wood said at this point, we will not schedule specific meetings until we see what other developments will be finalized by the State. I will focus on finding a date and time where a majority of the Supervisors on this Committee can be present so that we can formally endorse things discussed today. Ms. Ciulla said she is trying to form lists of ways to get in contact with people who need to know about the meetings. If there are other people I should be contacting, please let me know, she said.

Ms. Linder distributed copies of a sheet of information on a hardcover book entitled “Hudson Valley Voyage” – an exploration of four seasons and four centuries along the Hudson River from Manhattan to Saratoga Springs. She stated this book normally sells for \$36.95, and she has copies that she can sell for \$30.

Chairman Wood said if anyone has any questions, do not hesitate to call Jen Ciulla, Kriistina Saddlemire or himself.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann