

Celebrate 400 Committee Minutes

November 8, 2007 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Richardson, Peck and Gutheil; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Kristina Reese, County Historian; Liz Callanan, Waterford; Jennifer Ciulla, Publication Specialist; Nelson Ronsvale, Halfmoon; Laura Lindner, Charlton Historian; Press.

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

Mr. Wood said that 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of Samuel D. Champlain's voyage down Lake Champlain and Henry Hudson's voyage up the Hudson River. For almost each one hundredth year period there have been significant celebrations. There are both state and federal commissions established for the purpose of celebrating very historic and major nation shaping events that occurred. The vision is that all of Saratoga County will participate in events.

Ms. Reese gave a brief presentation of Saratoga County's pertinent role in History with regard to Exploration, Native Americans, Waterways and Steamships.

Ms. Lindner said there were two commission meetings held at West Point for all the communities along the Hudson River. At the first meeting, all the counties were there, and Mr. Reynolds, captain of the replica of the Henry Hudson ship, gave a presentation. The purpose of his visit was to let all the communities know that the ship cannot jump back and forth along the river. It will have to be a continual process of activities so that the ship can get and be at the different activities. The basic celebration is scheduled for July through August 2009. Each county representative was given a listing of their county events, so that they can begin to attach the Celebrate 400 theme to different events in their county. Each county also has their history with regard to Henry Hudson or Champlain.

Ms. Lindner said the trip of discovery takes place every year from September 11th – 19th, with the Halfmoon replica making the trip for the last ten years. This would be a very active way of teaching the public about the discovery and work of Henry Hudson.

The second meeting was held in October with the theme, “The Native Americans”. There were representatives of the Mohican’s at the meeting to explain about their history.

Ms. Reese said that as of now every county is being told to forge on as if there were no funds available. The following outline was established by Ms. Reese and Ms. Lindner, siting ways to forge on as if there were no money.

County Opportunities

1. Board of Supervisors Tent, Saratoga County Fair – 400th theme
2. Army Field Band Concert
3. Sponsor school essay and/or art contest
4. Create County Float for local parades

Municipal Opportunities

1. Theme of 400th at Town Events, i.e., parades fireworks, family days, etc.

Legacy Projects

1. Green Infrastructure Plan/Open Space
2. Boat Launch in the Town of Saratoga
3. Scholarship Awards

Partnership Opportunities

1. Ndkinna Educational Center
2. County and local Historical Societies, Heritage and Visitor Centers
3. Neighboring Counties
4. Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
5. National Park Service
6. Local Galleries – Art week with theme of Rivers, Waterways, Native Americans
7. Dutch Barn Preservation Society
8. Hudson Crossing
9. Saratoga Lake Association
10. Saratoga Racetrack

Funding Opportunities

1. 400th Commission
2. GE
3. Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership

Mr. Wood said these events would increase tourism and highlight pride in why people want to live here.

Mr. Wood said the next step is to contact corporate sponsors and organizations that would sponsor activities and events. He encouraged all supervisors to get the word out that Celebrate 400 was going to happen. To begin to think about events and activities and how they can be tied into ongoing events, as well as creating new events, such as legacy projects that would have long lasting impacts in the county, i.e., trails, boat launches, parks.

Ms. Lindner said the regional groups that have been established are as follows:

1. Rockland/Westchester
2. Dutchess/Orange/Putnam/Ulster
3. Columbia/Green
4. Albany/Rensselaer/Saratoga

The next Celebrate 400 Committee meeting was scheduled for December 13th at 2:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom