

Minutes – 1814, Commemoration, Inc. – **BOP Committee May 20, 2021**

In attendance – Tom Donahue, Richard Daley, Diane Kwarta, P.J. Miller, Nate Pultorak, Lana Putnam, Bruce Moore, Wendy Gilchrist, Linda Ward, Jim Guinness, Emily Moosmann, Mary Simmers.

President Donahue - will do an overview what has happened since last meeting and then have anyone who has a function on a committee to give a quick report.

Tom – Discussion on the Mailing Follow Up -nearly 400 Mailings have gone out, but response is slow only have about 10% of what we need; need follow up with the businesses by phone & in person.

Richard's question – Is this group (1814 Commemoration Inc.) the total operation of the BOP? *Tom explained our hoped position with the City!*

He is working with the City to get the same “in kind” services as in years past; Tom talked with Mayor a week ago and the Mayor says he is with us 100% but has questions; We need this assurance in writing; there may be concern about paying O.T. Contact person, Skip DuBrey says all is doable as he has talked with all Supervisors involved; Skippy says he is working on one more thing and will advise when finalized.

Tom would like the new people to join a committee – Nate will help with Entertainment – (his background is organist/choir master at the Catholic churches & is a Champion Dulcimer player).

City is now charging for Parks & Buildings & equipment – Hopefully not charging us (*general discussion about the city interests*) We may need to ask the City lawyer to clarify a few questions.

Hoping the Thursday Kick-Off will be at Valcour Brewery- a meeting w/ Valcour Brewery's owner/manager Mary Teresa Pearl is planned Monday to finalize commitment. (Meeting with Valcour Brewing Company was successful. Management is on board with all aspects of what we want to do. Thursday September 9 kick off will be at Valcour Brewing Company).

Linda – discussion on Mall display panels - John Momont (Creative Signs) doing the panels in the Mall– the signs will be his donation; 12 x13 panels; Larger sign will be a Living History Display; (*Linda passed around the Rack card used for mailings*) Emily as Mall manager can help coordinate. *Noted BOP info & dates and on Web.*

Small sign will give credit to - John Momont (Creative Signs), Bruce Carlin, Dr Eaglefeather (*Fireworks*), Mt Lake PBS, Linda may have another possible large donor, but that donor might be in competition with the Mall; sign will highlight our BOP schedule and history from September 9th – 12th . Linda asked PJ do text for signs; Signs should be up in 10 days.

Richard brought up including the skirmish near across from Dewey's Tavern! We do commemorate that, but it is not on sign panel.

We left dates off signs in case we want to move signs downtown as Commemoration begins and use again in future years.

Tom – Rich Frost asked Vince Puliafico to come as John Quincy Adams and talk at kick off at Valcour; also have Mayor and dignitaries attend Thursday evening to welcome all as start of BOP; For History Talks, Rich Frost has 5 speakers & 4 locations so far

Wendy working on Music – Nate will help; Also, Don Vicaro (group is Fulton's Folley) willing to help find entertainment (he books Jay, NY summer Entertainment); Don has possible bands and singer contacts, and Don's wife is a clown and willing to do events! We could use individuals who might play for half an hour or so to keep entertainment going on all day. Suggestions discussed; Wendy was concerned about costs; Tom said Don's group might be willing to lower their fees if we don't have enough money and hopefully others might too.

Mary is working on 5K Run & event Insurance.

Rotary unsure about bed races due to unknowns about college students being available.

Emily talked about the Rotary – are they in or out? Check with Stan (member of Rotary) Tom talked with Ellen Bouchard, President of Rotary til June – They want to do Roducky and maybe bed race. She was unaware we were moving ahead on the BOP until Tom talked with her.

Discussion about Adirondack Regional Theater group – They want to do 2-Person Play to make money for first responders from 9-11; known as “Two Guys” (one is previous city mayor Jim Calnon and other a LeeAnn Thomas (professor at CCCC) Discussion - Does it apply here? Think more about the possibility; Richard sees the connection to 911 as we are “the other 911” Jim helpful to BOP as mayor in 2014. Suggestion to do a show prior to our dates.

Discussion on how to raise money; Before event - maybe a 50-50 raffle.

Linda – Buttons cost 50 cents each (we had 1000 2019 with 800 left over); There are no indoor events (at present) so no need for button for entry; it will be a souvenir and supports BOP; Mary reintroduced the \$18.14 idea Use with local businesses -give discount for button; there have been buttons since 1998 - see on website the old posters - Bruce Carlin worked on that display; every school has been notified of poster contest for fifth graders; use online poster art as inspiration; entries are due June 11; this year teachers are using circles for art; cost is 85 cents per button if under 500 ordered.

Tom asked committee chairs to think about poster ideas and PR for their event; Linda - Putting out posters we might want one poster with many events or maybe use 2021 parade theme “communities emerging through history”; Richard has worked in our information booth and knows people mostly asked about what is happening, when, where; We can place around town schedules on large panels; still considering use of building next to City Well for our booth; Jim asks about list of times of events - Linda says panels will include that info.

Tom discussed magazine versus simple program with events and/or a map. Without sponsors no booklet!

Mary - Engine Pull - contacted Jim Garrant – has pink fire engine used to collect for Cancer Support; getting new old engine – will be loaded engine so it can be held in reserve when a first line engine is out of service; While in reserve it doesn't have to leave the engine pull due to an emergency call. Jim works-semi-retired at West Chazy P.O. Enthusiastic. Need follow up. Teams will pull the engine 18 ft 14 inch; may be a good Sunday anchor event!

Lana - Valcour Brewery meeting with Bill Dashnaw and Mary Teresa Pearl scheduled for Monday, May 24th at 4PM; She and Emily discussed the drink contest “battle of the drinks!” Bill will have names of other breweries for Lana to ask each to make a special brewed drink for a BOP contest with voting at participating breweries/restaurants. Emily has the idea how to do voting online – maybe on our site! Discuss this with Bruce C.; Maybe use button for discounts on drinks; Start contest in August and end by kick off where we announce beer winner; PJ could get Re-enactors to come out to do PR for “battle of the drinks!”

Lana talked with Brad Miller of City Police who provided Captain Keiroy's email to request their help. Brad wants to help in any way possible (Lana has Brad and Captain's emails).

Lana talked with Matt Barrett from the Fire Department; they will set up booth with new & antique equipment; have PFD History, jump net, rescue boat; he will request the smoke house, will put the antique engine in the parade.

Lana called McDonalds – must make requests via email (float, helium balloons, orange drink in the orange bowl) discussed possible sponsorship?? And booth for Ronald McDonald House?? Linda concerned about Thursday games for

children as it is first week of school. Discussed ages and interests adjusting events at Valcour! Ask for McDonalds for whole weekend; discussed use of Trinity Park and area in and near it; Lana asks participants to do something historic.

Lana - Talked with Councilor Mike Kelly who suggests we attend an operational meeting of the common council (second Monday of each month – next is June 14th, 5 PM) Everyone will be there including the lawyer we need to talk to.

Lana's suggestions for the parade and in general – Honor our Plattsburgh heroes – then and now (from BOP to Covid – invite contingency of Police, EMS, Nurses, Fire, Military, Doctors to participate) Have histories of nurses back to 1814. Maybe nurses Do BP checks. Also remember lost citizens at ceremonies.

Discussed how area around Trinity/City Hall has been and can be used; like the Plucky Rooster and pony rides took place in area below monument by river.

Lana asked Diane – can you provide the Counselors at Mhab on the base with Sign-up sheets for volunteers to include info! send names to Diane to ask for sign-up sheets; she needs names and numbers, times they are available, etc.; Each committee should identify how many volunteers are needed.

Suggested to ask city councilors to have their ward put float in parade; make it a competition between wards.

Nate – (organist/choir director; hammer dulcimer in groups area) has musical connections and experience setting up music events (U.S. national dulcimer Champion); group discussed possibilities. Willing to work with Latalya Duell to sing National Anthem accompanied by his new dulcimer.

PJ says Re-enactors can use KDH for set up; plans for displays, interpretive things; - blacksmith, tinsmith, candle making, kids game, cooking demo, weapons demo; A local guy can bring his bateau on the trailer and bring into the KDH yard (people get closer to it); bateaus are essentially rowboats used between ships for supplies and wounded sailors; more civilian and military displays; one British reenactor can come as he is in the U.S., he is a bagpiper; thus there will be no opposing re- enactments; Linda – says they are talking opening Quebec as they are doing better with vaccines; a lot of re-enactors are not doing summer events; encampment at KDH - not too many camping out as they live close by and go home; if there is any overflow, Sam says Monument is owned by KDH and leased by City so maybe can use that space. Stipend for each demonstrator is \$100 (not officially – not promised \$\$) 16 or 20 re-enactors/demonstrators' stipend would be for Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 10/11-3.

Fashion show and court martial trial being considered; George and Dallas interested in doing the Court Martial. One suggested for location of the trial -Thursday upstairs at Valcour.

Wendy – Entertainment is all remaining TBD as sponsorships increase; what tents will be set up? One large tent in Trinity likely! Bear tracks will lower their usual price this year; Russell doing all sound around \$1,000; changing sound takes time set up and take down while switching groups; length of act affects set ups. Tom hopes for different groups or individuals to perform in trinity park; we have tent quotes but cannot sign contract as not refundable until financing is assured.

Costs for tent - likely best plan is for a big tent in Trinity Park for Entertainment and hospitality with tables and chairs; Information Building next to City Well for our booth - info and merchandise (Tom has contact for maple syrup donation we can sell) Boy Scouts need tent/have their own; provides BS booklets about the historic trail with 30 stops - booth on corner - sell booklets \$5, buy book go to trail, answer questions like a Parr Course - get medal for completing; Asking BS to help with cannonball run; Diane has already mentioned this at district meeting.

Suggestion- 1814 Comm Inc to sell water

Emily – possible to use Mall for history talks; discussion about Thursday activities and liabilities of using lawns; not too much lawn at Valcour?? Discussion on type of games at Valcour, two visions of events: young adults versus families.

Bruce - presented Cafe ideas to Trinity Vestry; - no food can served in the building Diocese new rules on buildings and grounds use - not favorable for events; Religious properties are considered private and make their own rules so we bound by diocese - no coffee and food; anything on grounds 6 feet apart unless family; all this could change; any church events guided by the diocese but if it is rented then it comes under NY State rules; What would rent would be? So, Trinity church activities are on hold; Maybe if regulations change Café can be written into agenda. Right now - allowed in church 50% - about 50-70, a potential site for History talk.

Volunteers – if you know your needs for volunteers how many and when email Diane – may or may not get the number you ask for so recruit for yourself as well; she will develop a master list with numbers and times, etc. and fill requests as best as we can; Still a lot of unknowns; Americorp volunteers contacted as a source; send email if want sign up sheets try to fit volunteers where they want to be but may ask to vary.

Source -Fraternities and Sororities; In 2019 Tim and wife handled volunteers; Ann Brady found in past that knowing the sorority advisor is advantageous. Schools: letters to guidance counselors not successful and try again; tried going to Clinton C - low turnout.

Richard Daley – interest to help; distribute posters last year

Idea: If Valcour Brewing does Israel Green’s Tavern on Thursday, contact Buster’s to be Tavern on Friday and Saturday, or Buster’s on Friday and Olive Ridley’s on Saturday or vice-versa.

Jim (Happy Birthday) – Cumberland Head Barbershoppers - entertainment in Trinity; Linda wants GROUPS around monument, too! FOR Parade on wagon singing, willing to do Riverside Ceremony sing songs like God Bless America, an Armed Forces medley, America the Beautiful; will talk to Tim (Taking about 10-14 days leaving SW on 25th); noted sound was needed for Sweet Adelines singing at City Hall for National Anthem. Dulcimer would be great.

Bagpipers scheduled; Irish dancers; Supervisor Cashman and Mayor -letter to mayor suggesting collaborating - invite all Clinton and Essex town with City leadership Towns can give financial support now that we are non-profit; gift certificate etc.

Kit gave Band contacts - Navy, etc maybe not busy since plans everywhere delayed; some way to represent their town.

Mailed, handed out packets to potential sponsors. We have less than 9K, with expenses pending; last year got up to \$15K; all giving less, even banks.

Have over 200 names and phone numbers; Linda will send each of us a few names of companies and the contacts as per the Chamber list with phone number and instructions as what to say. This as follow-up to mailings; Wendy – suggests we not just ask in the City but surrounding potential sponsors.

Chamber after hours – Emily can network in person at Strand get together; Linda asks we make calls starting June 1 and complete contacts within 2 weeks; Not all we have contacted are members of the chamber; make sure they understand the sponsorship is for the BOP Commemoration an 1814, Inc. is the organizing non-profit.

Submitted By, Mary Simmers

Revised May 29, 2021 11:20 am CR

