

Meeting Minutes America 250 Committee 5th meeting

Monday October 20th @ 6:30 PM

Next Meetings – Monday November 17th @6:30 PM

1. **Committee Attendees:** Committee Cochairs Michon Blake (OSPAC) and Tiffany Stanton ran the meeting, Kristin Warner (Supervisor), Joyce Snyder (Supervisor) -left mid-way for an EAC obligation, Katie Cleary (Events), Nancy Becker (PC) and Michael Lewis (Veterans)

Guests: Victor Verbeke (SAR)

Absent: Molly Jobson (Morgan Log House Director), Emma Hodgson (Morgan Log House President)

Kristin asked for approval of last month's – meeting #4 minutes. Nancy motioned, Michon seconded and all said yes.

2. **Promotion and Invites:**

A. Joyce and Township staff – will create a list for formal invite including local dignitaries, Towamencin Police, Fire and EMS, adjacent Townships, Area Schools, nearby Historic Societies (Vic is also a source for this) and our local VFW, ROTC and Scouts.

B Kristin Will share our ideas and a verbal invite to participate with contacts at TVFC and the Ladies Auxiliary. Specifically, to ask if the antique fire truck and other could be on site.

C. Victor- will provide a list of local historical societies to include for invite / and or participation.

He mentioned that he was recently asked to join Montco's Historical Society Board and would seek their involvement

D. Micheal will reach out to local VFW, ROTC and Scouts for inclusion and involvement.

E. Katie showed a Chat-GPT created logo (see attached) for flyers / posters / banners and invite letters that all loved.

F Victor shared the following from a John Adams letter to his wife Abigail

The Second Day of July 1776 will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews,

Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the [Declaration of Independence](#), which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American Independence.

PS. In early American writing, "shew" was a common alternative spelling for the modern word "show".



Note: The Committee discussed using at least a portion of the JA letter in promotions and invites for Towamencin's Celebration Event!

3. Color Guard Parade: The Committee agreed that in addition to the SAR, DAR & CAR, we would invite the local Veterans (VFW), NPHS ROTC, & local Scout Troops to all join a Color Guard parade from to the Armeth Sound Stage to open the ceremony beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- A) Micheal will recruit VFW, ROTC, and Boy Scout contacts to request and confirm their participation.
- B) Tiffanie said she would reach out to Emma H (DAR) to ask her daughter Fiona (CAR) to sing the National Anthem
- C) Victor was asked to help trim the Declaration to be read in Proclamation style.
- D) Kristin suggested that possibly this could be followed by a reading of the children's version of Paul Revere's Ride as a way to engage young children.

4. The EVENT Happenings / Content :

A Entertainment and Food – Katie (Events) will do the following:

- Confirm the Montgomery County Band as a definite from 7PM-9PM after a motion from Tiffany and a second from Nancy all voting yes for Montgomery Band vs Redhill based on prior experience and that they perform for free at our Towamencin Days each year.
- Confirm Bussing for June 25 and ask their policy with rain dates
- Reach out to the Pennfield Middle School Jazz Band (or some other Township school band as a potential 5/5:30-7 PM option. Note: Committee agreed any American / Patriotic themed music band/ chorus or some combo of all of the above to fill the 5-just before 7 PM
- In addition to the already booked Mexican and From the Boot (Italian) Food trucks – she will seek and confirm a Barbecue, Hot Dog / Hamburger and possibly Triple A catering offering Pepper Pot Stew for sale.
- Follow up and confirm Hennings supplying (and manning?) a Pie table

- Reach out to Keith Foy (Boy Scout Leader) for firepit and S'more duty
Note: Katie brought up the concern for a back-up plan in case a "No Fire" order is in place. She suggested using portable propane grills – committee was asked to ponder
- The idea of pony rides was floated by Tiffany. Katie said she might have a petting zoo contact. Both will explore options and costs. Kristin and Joyce will ask about adding additional to the budget at the next Finance Meeting. Tiffany said she included approximately 10 percent buffer when she created the budget presentation 10/15
- Katie advised that we rent a more professional sound system than used for Holiday and other events. She'll check on options and costs at Rental World.

B. Per Joyce, Stacy has a potential George and Martha Washington lined up and other ideas she's researching.

C. Victor followed up with a Betsy Ross who is presently available but indicated there is an increased demand expected this coming year.

D. Michon will remind Uncle Sam of the sloped terrain in Fisher's. If a problem on the stilts his could be shifted to be contained within a flatter area..

B. **Crafts** (Cup and Ball, Corn husk dolls & Potato stamps), **Games** (Shut the box, Cornhole, marbles and 13 colonies trivia) and **letter writing to the troops** were discussed.

Kristin – demonstrated a shut the box game set, and a cup and ball craft that she created. She will follow up with Molly to get a count of how much of each category she'd suggest. She will research the history of each craft and game to have a short summary to share with participants / attendees.

C. **Prizes** – Kristin suggested colorful patriotic stickers. Tiffanie floated the idea of handing out paper flags to all kids attending. Stickers could be collected on them

5. Volunteers Katie will reach out to Linda Lawlor (NPHS Key Club Teacher Advisor) about getting student volunteers. especially for "game day" from the following sources: NPHS Key Club and National Honor Society (NHS), ROTC and Scouts. It was suggested that requests are made early in the New Year.

6. Mapping of the Grounda: Katie is experienced with the park layout and what works best where. She definitely wants to place food trucks in the upper corner lot in a food court design. Since the vendors didn't like being spread out at our last Towamencing Day. She showed an arial view of Fisher's Park. Final plan for layout will depend on weather conditions. The consensus of the group is to keep all the activities, games and historic tables in close proximity to attendees spread around the main promenade loop. If it is too wet from prior rains some may be better under pavilions. She'll work out a suggested map that can be fine-tuned by the committee based on confirmed participants and weather predictions.