

Meeting Minutes America 250 Committee 5th meeting

Monday November 17th @ 6:30 PM

Next Meeting – Monday December 15 @6:30 PM

1. **Committee Attendees:** Committee Cochairs Michon Blake (OSPAC) and Tiffany Stanton (Resident) ran the meeting, Joyce Snyder (Supervisor), Kristin Warner (Supervisor), Katie Cleary (Events), Nancy Becker (PC), Stacy Spizziri (American Legion) and Michael Lewis (Veterans)

Guests: Victor Verbeke (SAR)

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

Michon opened the meeting with a request for approval of last month's – meeting #5 minutes. Nancy motioned, Katie seconded and all said yes.

1. Promotion and Invites:

A. Victor brought along a 3-page list of all Montgomery County Historical Societies members. He has also sent the list via email and is pursuing contact information for any members whose email is missing.

B Joyce and Township staff (I'll gladly assist) will compile a list of all area Townships, dignitaries and local organizations to be invited.

C Katie advised that it would be best to mail the formal hardcopy invite written in Calligraphy late January or early February.

D. Micheal provided the ROTC leaders email and will follow up with the local scouts

E. Kristin suggested that a "save the date" email be created and sent to all before the new year allowing advanced notice.

2. **Drone show**- Michon and Tiffany both shared details of their research into the idea of a drone show. All were pleasantly surprised that the cost would be relative to the idea of park lighting previously proposed. After much discussion it was decided that the committee members would like to pursue securing one of the two companies looked into. Specifically, Michon will follow up with the one she'd contacted since they've done two shows for Upper Gwynedd Township.

The following **concerns:** were identified and need further clarification and in the case of parking a viable solution:

- A. A suitable staging area with a 250-foot perimeter that could be kept corded off for the duration without disrupting the flow of other parts of the evening's entertainment / stations and parking. The small sparsely paved area across from the Arneth house off of Kriebel was suggested and will be explored. Michon and Tiffany will ask input on this from their respective drone contacts.
- B. Parking in general is of concern. Katie emphasized that having enough parking has been a challenge at our events, particularly the larger attended like Towamencin Day and the Holiday Tree Lighting.
- Further Katie expressed worry regarding transportation / parking: While using buses to transport attendees from Nash will alleviate the concern of sufficient parking availability and should run smoothly at the beginning of the evening, naturally more staggered. We can suggest people plan to arrive earlier than the actual start time to allow an easier flow. Relying on two buses will most definitely result in a clog of everyone attempting to leave at once upon a drone show finale. Katie worries that masses, especially if attendance is high, will attempt to walk Bustard Road back to Nash rather than waiting for a bus. Simultaneously those who parked within Fisher's grounds will be driving in a hurry out of the park's one way exit onto that same road.
 - Katie will consult with the police first and then Public works for input once the committee has a more defined timeline and needs from the Drone company.
- C. A request was made to Bob Iannozzi (Township Solicitor) to create a specific contract for the drone show. He suggested asking for a copy of what other townships use for such.

3. **Discussion & Update on Activities:**

A. Tiffanie and Michon asked if we should pursue the idea of offering **pony rides** or some other attraction for younger children. Katie mentioned a small **petting zoo**. They will research both ideas for feasibility.

B. **Games-**

- **13 Colonies Trivia**- Joyce along with Molly will devise questions focusing on the original 13 colonies. Like the passport at the International Spring Festival a handout will be created (most likely on a single sheet of paper) listing the trivia questions (13) to participants. Every station / table (Crafts, Games, historical society, Fire company etc) will be assigned 1-2 questions (depending on the number of “stations”) along with the answers. The station manager will give out a patriotic sticker when presented with the correct response. Katie proposed fun punch holes on the handout as well. Tiffanie added the idea of having a basket of goodies raffle for any who gets all 13 correct answers.
- Other Games: Marbles, Shut the box & Cornhole will be offered for play

C. **Crafts:** Ball and Cup (save your cardboard egg cartons), Potato Stamps and Cornhusk dolls are others being pursued. Nancy has secured corn husks from a local farmer.

Kristin will illicit Molly’s assistance. Stacy suggested adding a make your own tri-corn hat (usually from newspaper - start saving yours) station.

D. **Letters to the military** – It was decided that Girl Scouts or ROTC or CAR would be asked to do at their table / station and to keep it simple and single focused on “Thank you for your Service” rather than including Happy Birthday or Get Well.

E. **Face Painting** - Katie is confirming one

F. **Founder Performers:**

Uncle Sam on Stilts – Michon has Confirmed

Betsy Ross- Michon will finalize now that the committee decided she would do 3 hours (same as Uncle Sam) meet and greet = \$495 first hour, half X2 for the next two. It should total \$990.00.

George and Martha – Stacy is close to hearing back and will update when she does.

Founding Father – Molly reached out to Ed Kane for participation, he is believed to be available.

G. **Paul Revere Story time** -Tiffanie proposed the story be used as entertainment for any standing in line for pony rides or petting zoo if either gets confirmed. If not, it could be announced that next to games and crafts at a particular time (ie 7:30 PM) The story of Paul Revere's fateful ride will be read to all interested.

H. **Food** - Katie has secured an American Barbecue Truck that will include Hotdogs and Hamburgers to go along with the Italian and Mexican previously confirmed.

- 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

I. **Volunteers- Scouts, Key club, and ROTC** advisors have all been reached out to and are poised for participation. It was agreed to include each in the save the date email and to finalize our specific requests for each between Jan – early March.

4. **Color Guard Parade:** The Committee agreed that in addition to the SAR, DAR & CAR, we would invite the local Veterans, NPHS ROTC, & local Scout Troops to all join a Color Guard parade from top of drive down to the Arneth Sound Stage to open the ceremony beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of National Anthem

- a) Micheal has reached out to ROTC, and Boy Scout contacts to request and confirm their participation.
- b) Tiffanie said Fiona (daughter of Emma H -CAR) is unable to sing the National Anthem. Katie thought possibly a school choir? Kristin mentioned maybe DOC
- c) Victor provided a trimmed Declaration – if read in Proclamation style, he believes a Jefferson persona would be best. It is @ 10 minutes still so may need more discussion as to what is read.

5. **Music** Contract is back for the Montgomery County Band as a definite from 7PM-9PM
Jazz band from Pennfield is being looked into for 5:30-6:30

6. **Bussing** - Contracts and ask their policy with rain dates is still in process. **Budget** – Joyce and Kristin don't anticipate any problem getting the full budget approved. We'll know for sure at the 12/10 BOS meeting. If needed to secure the date commitment - Contracts can be issued and deposits satisfied per Colleen Ehrle or Katie Cleary via events.

All agreed that swapping lighting of the trees in Fisher's for a 100 drone show was a better use of the funds allotted.

Katie will request an upgraded sound system to rent and at least one additional light tower. The latter has already been priced at \$125.00

*Securing more Characters may exceed what was budgeted but not by a lot and could be offset by donation. Worst case it was explained that a budget overage request can be presented at a future finance committee meeting and If need be voted on by the Board at a Supervisor's Meeting.

7. **Timeline**: The committee agreed that creating a "map of times" for the evening will have to be done closer to as specifics of each gets nailed down.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Warner

(Supervisor Liaison)