

## Pocono Township Bi-Centennial Celebration Committee

### Meetings Minutes of May 21, 2015

Present: Denise Herbert; Jennifer Fisher; Lonnie Moreno; Charlie Trapasso; Tony Farda

Also Present: Pocono Township Manager Gregg Schuster; David Hassney, Pocono/Jackson Historical Society (PJHS)

I. Call to order by Gregg Schuster, 5:05pm

II. Announcements: none

III. Approval of April 7<sup>th</sup> minutes: Jennifer made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Denise

IV. Amendments to add to today's agenda: Charlie asked that under Item #7c, "d" be added, Event Planner.

V. Public Comments made by David. He indicated that the Pocono/Jackson Historical Society was more than willing to work with the Bi-centennial Committee to develop ideas and facilitate celebration events. David mentioned that he would like to see the celebration offer something on the past but also the present.

David stated he had concerns with the Penn Dot proposal to re-route 715 because it could cut through the TLC property. PJHS is in favor of having Route 715 come through a section of mountainous terrain, parallel to Route 611, which is now privately owned (Sheldon Kopelson). Gregg stated that there are no concrete plans from PennDot to re-route 715, and at this stage, the construction will not begin for at least 5 years. In addition, federal funding is being used for this project, and this involves more robust planning and research. Also, the Township will have a say in the planning and if need be, can veto any proposal, especially if it runs through the TLC Park that the Township owns.

David said that PJHS may seek funding to create a historical museum and would ask for Township support. He indicated that while Jackson owns 2 acres of land on Learn Road, this is not an option to build a museum.

David also brought up the project of painting barns for the Bi-centennial Celebration as a way to increase awareness of the anniversary. He thought that high school seniors could be asked for ideas and volunteer their time.

VI. Appropriations: there is currently no standing budget for the Committee. Should there be a need for allocations, the Committee is to request it from Gregg. Items can be included in the 2016 Township budget.

## Pocono Township Bi-Centennial Celebration Committee

### Meetings Minutes of May 21, 2015

#### VII. New Business

a. Election of Officers: Gregg indicated that at the April meeting, Denise had been elected Secretary. There needed to be chairman for the meetings as he could no longer facilitate them. Charlie, Jennifer, and Tony could not serve because of obligations. Lonnie offered and a motion was made by Charlie, which was seconded by Jennifer. There were no dissenting views.

b. Committee Membership: Gregg noted that the Celebration Committee is a 7 member board; there are currently 6 assigned, although only 5 are participating. This is because despite numerous efforts by Gregg to contact Alysse Toye, she has not responded in either the affirmative or negative. Gregg stated that at the upcoming BOC's meeting, he will ask them to remove her from the Committee. When this is completed she will receive a letter of notification. This will leave yet another vacancy on the Committee. Lonnie stated he would contact Keith Coons and ask if he would be interested in participating. Tony will contact Tripp Ravine. A discussion on using Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to make announcements was discussed. Charlie added that Mountain View Park has its own Facebook page. No one was opposed to this form of advertising.

Lonnie stated that someone from this Committee should attend the BOC meeting and inform the commissioners and community of progress of the celebration. Gregg stated that he just needed to know and he would put them on the BOC Agenda. Jen agreed to attend the next meeting. Lonnie and Jen will coordinate information. Charlie will attend the next PJHS meeting in June to discuss ways in which the two groups could work together.

c. Development of Timeline: Gregg offered that it would be beneficial to have deadlines and deliverables in order, including what will happen in the next 2-3 meetings. Denise indicated that there should be a theme, a central idea from which all activities throughout the next year evolve. She stated that something like *Pocono Township, Past and Present* might work, with activities or events focusing on Pocono Township's history and where we now are.

Lonnie said this could be an incremental history. At this time, he asked that folks think about bringing in a "web." The "Web" would have one central idea and several offshoots. Charlie countered that dividing the time, figuring out what percentage of time would be allocated to events would be a way to organize the process.

Gregg suggested that the Committee figure out what was going to make the Celebration a success; what did they want to accomplish?

Denise stated that the events should be entertaining and interactive, involving various members of the community.

Tony indicated that there could be smaller events with one large culminating event at the end of 2016.

Charlie asked David if PJHS would be a subcommittee. David stated that they were available to assist in whatever was feasible. They had a speaker, Janet Mishing, coming in later this year to speak of the area's tannery business. This could be linked to an event from the Committee. He stated that PJHS meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, and information from that meeting is available in their newsletter as well.

Charlie stated that if PJHS was the expert on historical information, why not hand over this aspect of the celebration to them?

Lonnie asked that the members have ideas and timelines ready at the next meeting. Charlie asked David if PJHS could come up with 5 activities, and David said this was do-able. Jennifer countered that a focus for the celebration needed to be developed.

Denise noted that the best thing to do was allow PJHS to develop the 5 ideas and have them present it to us. From that point we could decide if we wanted to pursue those activities. If so, a plan could be worked out regarding needs for completion and logistics.

David stated that the way to begin would be for someone to attend the next PJHS meeting, which is June 15<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. The location will be announced. Charlie agreed to attend and discuss the celebration and how the two groups could work together.

Charlie asked how the data or materials submitted by Township residents would be handled and housed.

Charlie wanted to know if there was a timeline for the various ideas' implementation.

David stated that a museum or gallery would be a great place to house historical items. Lonnie wanted to know about the funding for such things.

Gregg recommended that the Committee not focus on how things were going to be paid for, but on an idea to accomplish. Funding could be obtained through various means, such as corporate sponsorships. Gregg also stated that the Committee should focus on small events through the 2016 year and then have one large event at the end of the year, with a celebration, dignitaries, etc.

The Committee agreed that having a Township museum would be a great culminating event.

Gregg stated that this idea was a fine one, but there was only 1.5 years to make that happen (June 2015-December 2016). Charlie countered that if a permanent museum building could not be obtained, MVP Community Center could be used as a temporary place. Charlie made a motion for an interim depository of historical items, with a permanent building by 2018. This was seconded by Jennifer and the Committee agreed.

d. Event Planner. Charlie indicated that she often worked with an event planner, TJ Price, to help with various events. The services were invaluable and perhaps the Committee should think about hiring one for this celebration. Lonnie asked how much this would cost. Charlie replied that the cost was dependent on what activities the Planner completed.

Gregg suggested that an event planner be invited to a meeting to discuss ideas. Lonnie asked if this would have to be bid out. Gregg stated that professional services when under certain amount did not have to be bid out.

Lonnie wanted to know if there would be objections from BOC regarding any budget requests. Gregg stated he could not anticipate such a thing, but the BOC was aware and supportive of the celebration. Gregg stated that one scenario to consider would be for the Township to pay for the event planner and all other costs would be covered by corporate sponsors.

Charlie agreed to invite TJ price to the July meeting.

It was discussed that there should be some tie-in to the November 2015 election and so the first event would be on Election Day, November 3, with the Committee handing out flyers that had Bi-centennial information. This would start engaging the community. Then an event such as having a speaker would occur on November 7th. The motion for these activities to commence as proposed was made by Charlie and seconded by Jennifer.

Lonnie asked if there needed to be a public relations representative. Gregg suggested that this be something the Committee further discuss.

Denise agreed to send meeting minutes to Chairman, Lonnie. He would review, make edits, and send to the rest of the Committee.

Gregg agreed to create an email just for the BI-centennial Committee; after some discussion, the Committee agreed it would be [Pocono200@pa.gov](mailto:Pocono200@pa.gov). Gregg would provide the login and password to Lonnie who could disseminate to the rest of the Committee.

VIII. There was no unfinished business from last month's meeting.

IX. Adjournment at 6:50, Lonnie; seconded by Charlie.

Next meeting @ Township Building, June 4, 5pm.