

**Hampton Falls Heritage Commission**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes--300th Sub-Committee**  
**November 2, 2015**

Present: David French, Chair, Beverly Mutrie, Secretary, Wendy Harrington, Mary Ann Hill, Commissioners, Maryann Kasprzak, Selectwoman and Commissioner, and Ann Haggart, Alternate Commissioner. Also present as invitees: Don Janik from the Rec. Dept., George Koch from the Historical Society, Jay Lord from the HFFD, Policeman Brian Rathbone of the HF Police Dept. , Todd Wagner from Applecrest and Marietta Garavaglia, member of the 300th Steering Committee.

D. French introduced himself and all attendees and stated that LAS will participate in the 300th festivities. The thought was that this celebration would last either from Apple blossom time through Harvest or just a month in the summer.

Marietta reviewed the work that she and Judy Smith had done: the oral history video, with Wendy Harrington's help and the spreadsheet for recommended activities. She reported on the 350th held recently in Hampton: liking the militia, early craft demonstrations, perhaps an Ice Cream Social; disliked the modern children's games and the commercialization of the food vendors tents.

Regarding the School's participation we wondered what Hampton Fall would look like in 300 more years? Perhaps the students could do a "Back to the Future" contest with essays, costumes, play or video.

Don Janik like the idea of a town wide picnic and a town picture as done in 1997 for the 275th. Maybe a bean supper. D. French and others mentioned different contests: food/apple pie, races, frog jump, plus plow contest, scythe contest, pulling contest.

Other items mentioned: antique transportation: tractors, cars, motorcycles, horse/oxen drawn vehicles in a parade or show.

Industry: Orchard, Mills, Agriculture

A. Haggart mentioned Stratham has finished their 300th recently so we should ask for their input.

We could update Brown's history for the last 100 years and engage a professional writer to do it.

We need a budget with money set aside to be seed money or purchase money.

Marketing is the key and should have a revolving fund to draw from as needed.

The Conservation Commission, Grange, Town Improvement Committee and the RPC should/could be involved plus the churches.

There is grant monies available but need the time to apply and develop ideas. Fundraising prior to the events could be necessary.

John Forti late of Strawberry Banke, now of Mass Hort, could talk on old time gardening, plants and herbs. We could have fireworks or a turkey shoot or a bow and arrow competition at the marsh.

A Progressive Dinner, which served food popular in each century, was thought to be worth more thought.

Exeter's Folsom Tavern and the American Independence Museum (Society of Cincinnatus) could be resources.

Ann asked us to envision Hampton Falls as we drove up Route 1, with repopulate elm trees, historical houses/buildings, sidewalks, benches, flower tubs etc. as an enticement to tourists to stay as well as a defining a difference from Seabrook. She would like to see townspeople create a legacy to future generations by donation of \$120 or other amount per year for town projects: helping people that are living below the poverty line or other worthy causes. This last idea was deemed not pertinent to the 300th celebration.

D. French clarified that there should be an "umbrella" type committee to guide all participants that would meet perhaps quarterly. D. French deemed a notable recruiter!

We could have a brochure about the town designed and also a logo that would unify and designate the event. A contest among artists to paint or photograph a Hampton Falls scene that could be used for marketing and the original auctioned off.

We have had Indian encampments in our past and that could be a focus for an event. Abby Tonry has information about the native Indians.

The Rec. Dept. could do some sporting events -- Races, Turkey Shoot ( as at Seabrook), old fashioned Baseball game, etc.

Todd Wagner from Applecrest Farm has a wonderful orchard venue and will participate to some extent.

Jay Lord made a spreadsheet that outlined events. He suggested that looking at the desired end result and working backwards might be the way to go.

The town is promoting the purchase and planting of elm trees at a reduced cost. Not too many residents have expressed interest so far, but this would be a way to participate as a town to plant 300 elm trees by 2022. We should ask the various boards/committees to think what specific activities they could envision organizing and holding for the month or six months time frame.

A possible solicitation letter or a sign on a large plywood board with a thermometer showing money raised so far might work. We need a budget with estimates of costs for fireworks, photographer, band, parade, etc. so the Selectmen have something to plan for (CIP?).

This part of the meeting concluded at 8:20 pm. The guests were excused and the Heritage Commission proceeded to hold their regular business meeting.