



Subject: 375th Anniversary Committee Kick off Meeting
March 11, 2021

The virtual meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM

Attending from the Town were Andrew Flanagan, Town Manager, Michael Lindstrom, Deputy Town Manager, Paul Materazzo, Director of Planning and Ann Ormond, Director of Business, Arts & Cultural Development and meeting moderator. Select Board member and Liaison to the committee Alex Vispoli also attended.

Committee members attending were Tom Adams, Bill Pennington, Buzz Stapczynski, Cipriano Apicelli, Joann Michalik, Joe Halpern, Melissa Litton, Paul Mackay, Richard Padova and Susan Pokress.

Ann Ormond opened the meeting greeting the members and town officials. Each committee member then introduced themselves and briefly outlined their background. She commented that the 375th will help lift the spirits of residents in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Ann Ormond then turned to the first order of business, nominating the candidates for Committee Chairman and Clerk. Nominations for Paul MacKay for Chairman and Thomas Adams for Clerk called for and both nominations were unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Andrew Flanagan addressed the committee and gave a general overview of the 375th Anniversary celebration and that he expected to be present at future meeting dependant on his schedule. Michael Lindstrom and Paul Materazzo followed Flanagan introducing themselves and outlining their Town responsibilities.

Select Board member Alex Vispoli was introduced as the Liaison to the Committee.

Ann Ormond then introduced Paul MacKay as Committee Chairman.

Chairman MacKay introduced himself and discussed his background and his experience serving of several Town committees. He opened the floor to members asking them to share their ideas on what they envision the 375th celebration undertaking. What would sort of events would most appeal to residents and guests.

Comments from the floor:

- Chm. MacKay – talked about the most appropriate date to start the 375th celebration. He suggested May 6th as it is the formal date of Andover’s incorporation in 1646. Joann Michalik said it was really 1643 but the consensus was to use the May 6th date in 1646. Chm. MacKay then ask the floor for comments on what was learned from the 350th celebration. Their comments follow:
 - Alex Vispoli: 375 needs to have appeal for new residents.
 - Buzz Stapczynski: The 350th took 3-years to plan. The Town provided seed money (\$20,000?). Jim Doherty and Norma Gammon played big roles. Some events required long lead times (e.g. U. Mass Marching Band required 2 years and a stipulation that we needed to ban “silly string” that kids squirted on the band and their instruments. We did that. Some planned events never came off (i. e. Andover & North Andover High School bands marching from North Andover to Andover) Every month had a monthly calendar of events. Author Doris Kearns Goodwin appeared and did a book signing. President George Bush, a Phillips alumnus, appeared for a speech and a celebration dinner. Some events had fees; others were free. The Town may have videos of 350th.
 - Chm. MacKay: The 350th had 3-years to plan; the 375th doesn’t. Asked how much Town would fund as seed money. Town Mgr. Flanagan said to ask at the next meeting.
 - Buzz Stapczynski: The 350th committee spent \$300,000-\$400,000 on celebration.
 - Buzz Stapczynski: The Town should have records of the 350th’s costs. The Town has put money in a trust for the 400th anniversary.

It was suggested that there be sub-committees to work independently between meetings. We will discuss that at our next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be Tuesday, March 16th at 4 PM.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 PM.