

Town Centennial Committee
MINUTES
February 8, 2018

The inaugural meeting of the Town Centennial Committee was held at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

Members present: Bridget Hartman (chair), Ellen Ericson, Lisa Flores, Barbara Rose, Cathy Slesinger, Kathy Strom, and Ann Wild (secretary)

Bridget Hartman announced that the Town Council approved an initial budget of \$20,000 for Town Centennial activities.

The meeting was a brainstorming session to consider ideas for projects and events that might be held to honor the Town's Centennial, which officially begins April 10, 2018, and runs through the following year.

Projects/Events Agreed Upon by the Committee

- **A call for gardeners for the Centennial Kick-Off House and Garden Tour** will appear in the March *Forecast* (deadline February 20). Bridget Hartman will write the brief article for the *Forecast*, as well as identify Town resident gardeners who have participated in past Garden Tours. The Committee suggested May 12 or 19 (both Saturdays) for the 1-4 PM tour followed by a reception in the Town Hall from 4-5 PM. Bridget will check the availability of the Town Hall for both of those dates. (The tour map would include brief descriptions of historic homes near or along the way to the featured gardens.) Ellen Ericson proposed that the tour be called ***Digging into the Next Century***. Coordinator(s) of the tour, as well as other volunteers, need to be determined. (Update: After the meeting, following discussions with those involved with past Garden Tours, it was concluded that the House and Garden Tour must be held on a Sunday to give gardeners the day before to prepare their gardens. So the Committee agreed by e-mail that the event would held on Sunday, June 3.)
- **Brief history vignettes** will be included in each issue of the *Forecast* during the Centennial year, beginning with the April issue. Barbara Rose, who agreed to be the Centennial Committee's liaison to the Community Relations Committee, will compile the history vignettes from the *Town of Chevy Chase Past and Present* book along with the vignettes that appeared in the *Forecast* in 2011. The first vignette will be submitted in time for the March 15 *Forecast* deadline.
- **A Centennial logo** will be created for use in each issue of the *Forecast* beginning with the April issue and as a banner for display at Town events during the Centennial year. Bridget agreed to contact Todd Hoffman to discuss the creation of a logo, banner, and the running of the monthly history vignettes.
- **A call for residents to submit old photographs of the Town** will appear in the April *Forecast*. Photographs will be included in a Town Hall exhibit of historical photographs and maps during the Centennial year. Coordinator(s) to be determined.

- **A Town Centennial birthday cake, as part of the July 4th Picnic and Parade**, will be on display at the event and then cut by the Town resident(s) who has lived here the longest. A request would be made to *Bethesda Beat* to cover this event. Coordinator(s) to be determined.
- **A Centennial time capsule** will be created, with its contents and location yet to be determined. Lisa Flores agreed to research next steps.

Projects/Events/Partner Organizations Under Consideration by the Committee

- **Creation of a small Centennial commemorative item** to be distributed to residents to raise awareness of the 100-year anniversary was discussed. The Committee considered several possibilities: a magnet, a mug/water bottle, and stickers. The commemorative item would incorporate the Town Centennial logo and be distributed close to the actual date of the Centennial – April 10, 2018.
- **Addition of Town Centennial dates to all Town entrance signs.**
- **Panel Discussion with long-time Town residents** offering their past memories of the Town. This event would be held in fall 2018.
- **A possible 3K Run for Town residents** (children and adults) as a fall 2018 event to celebrate the Centennial.
- **Consideration of the Lee Dennison Bequest.** Kathy Strom relayed an idea that was brought up in a recent Climate and Environment Committee meeting regarding the Lee Dennison bequest of \$100,000 to the Town for a beautification project for our community. It was suggested at that meeting that the bequest be used to create an environmentally sustainable teaching garden. Kathy offered to serve as liaison between the two committees and to provide updates should there be a role for the Centennial Committee.
- **Oral histories of long-time residents.** Bridget will investigate what would be necessary to carry out this long-term project: interviewing equipment, script for interviewers, and a transcription service. All this would likely require a request to the Town Council for additional funding.
- **Chevy Chase Library, Chevy Chase at Home, Chevy Chase Historical Society, Montgomery County Historical Society, and Chevy Chase Elementary School** were mentioned as possible local organizations that might be helpful to the Town's Centennial efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Wild

Next Meeting: Monday, March 12