

Town Centennial Committee
MINUTES/UPDATES
October 15, 2018

The Town Centennial Committee met at 7:20 PM in the Town Hall.

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

Cathy Slesinger moved that the minutes/updates for the September meeting be approved. Barbara Rose seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Projects/Events in Process

- **Lee Dennison Garden:** On October 10, the Town Council gave its unanimous approval for the preliminary plan, using the Lee Dennison Bequest to the Town, to install the Lee Dennison Garden as a series of “rooms” in Zimmerman Park. Bridget Hartman reported that Backyard Bounty has been chosen to design the garden, with the Town responsible for securing bids for the installation activities of the garden, which is expected to be planted in fall 2019. Bridget also reported that at the public hearing, Committee member Murray Horwitz, who knew and worked with Lee Dennison, gave a very moving presentation in favor of the garden.
- Prior to the public hearing, Kathy Strom promoted the proposal for the Lee Dennison Garden at the Town’s Green Fair on Saturday, September 22, **giving residents the opportunity to learn more about the garden.** About 100 residents came by Kathy’s table from 10 AM-1 PM and gave their favorable opinions on the tentative plans. Kathy also spoke at the forum held from 1-2 PM. Backyard Bounty was also present at the event, which was sponsored by the Climate and Environment Committee. Kudos to Irene Lane, chair of that committee, for organizing the event.
- **Spring Centennial Event:** The Committee discussed having a spring event marking the conclusion of the Centennial and the possible groundbreaking and/or dedication of the Lee Dennison Garden. Possible dates, which Bridget Hartman will investigate, for what would be a two-part event, are Sunday, April 28, 2019, or Sunday, May 5, 2019. The Committee agreed that remarks should be made at the garden by Murray Horwitz and others who knew Lee Dennison well. Previous Committee discussions had proposed that a reception would follow the garden component, with wine and other refreshments along with musical performers possibly playing works popular through the Town’s Centennial years.
- **Proposed Sculpture for Lee Dennison Garden:** Both the Climate and Environment Committee and the Centennial Committee have expressed interest in pursuing the possibility of commissioning a work of sculpture for the garden. Sally Kelly (of the Climate and Environment Committee) and Murray Horwitz are

interested in working on this effort, which may require approval of additional funds from the Town Council. Once Backyard Bounty finalizes its design plans for the garden (anticipated in December), discussion about a possible sculpture will commence in earnest.

- The Committee continued its discussion on incorporating **Centennial activities into the Town's annual Chili Dinner** on February 10, 2019. Suggested ideas included: Centennial cupcakes, a separate table for residents to add their Town memories to the Centennial time capsule, a display of the Town History exhibit along with photos/histories of Town homes, and the large Town map for children and their parents to affix their Town memories. It was also suggested that residents might be asked in the January *Forecast* to bring to the dinner photos and items (or, better yet, photos of items) from their own experiences of living in the Town for incorporation into the time capsule. Barbara Rose, who along with Julia Bellinger serves on the Community Relations Committee, presented a couple of these ideas to that committee, which runs Chili Dinner, and received a positive response. Coordination will continue between the two committees.
- **Oral histories of Town residents:** Bridget Hartman is contacting the Montgomery County Historical Society for their assistance in how to carry out this project. The Committee also discussed presenting one of the Historical Society's lectures on genealogy or a relevant topic on the people and places of Montgomery County. The Committee concluded that these topics may be too narrow to pursue during the Centennial year or had been previously been presented as a Discussion and Desserts by the Community Relations Committee.
- **Proclamations:** Kathy Strom has secured a Centennial proclamation from the Maryland State Senate. She is also working to get proclamations from our Congressional representative, Jamie Raskin; Senator Van Hollen; the Montgomery County Council; and the County Executive. Ellen Ericson volunteered to follow up with the Town staff about obtaining a proclamation from the Governor.
- Barbara Rose reported that the **Centennial Snippet** in the November *Forecast* will delve into the history of the Lawton Center. Barbara requested ideas from the Committee for future snippets.
- Committee members reported on their **efforts to distribute packets for the 24 identified long-time residents**. These packets had been assembled by Ann Wild.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Wild

Next Meeting: Monday, November 12