250th Celebration Committee Meeting

SUMMARY

Thursday, April 16th, 2026

Present: Rindge Chamber of Commerce President Lynda Hunt, Police Chief Rachel Malynowski, Recreation Director Dan Bemis, Executive Secretary Victoria Stenersen, Pat Paige, Claudia Stewart, Karla MacLeod, and Sue Tussing.

Meeting Opened At: 10:07

Claudia motioned to accept the minutes from April 2nd, 2026. Pat seconded, none opposed, motion carried.

Old Business:

PARADE DETAILS:

- Registration for Parade Floats – there was a discussion about adding a statement about pedal bikes only to the registration form.
- Waiver Form for the Parade – no edits were made. Saved to be handed out at the parade.
- Police Detail Fund – Rachel would prefer to pay from existing Overtime in the Police budget rather than the Detail/Revolving Fund, as they have plenty of funds in wages.
- Bike Decorating – the Chamber is providing the decorations and prizes. They will have volunteers to man the booth. Pat requested flyers for bike safety from Rachel. Rachel will check to see if they can get them printed. It was decided that all ages can bike; the age limit for the decorating contest is 14 years old. Advertising/publishing the length of the parade route was discussed so parents can make an informed decision whether their child is physically able to bike the whole route. There was a suggestion to have the contest broken up into age groups.
- Closing Transfer Station Early – 4:00 pm, requested clarification from the board to either close early or adjust the hours to 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- Ringing the Bell 250 times – the Board of Selectmen approved at their previous meeting and suggested using it as a fundraiser. The amount agreed to was $10 for 10 rings. The goal is to raise $250 for 250 rings.

BANNERS/BUNTINGS:

- Karla ordered banners/buntings for the Historical Society. She ordered 20 at 2 for $42.
- Pat will order 8-10 buntings for the Gazebo, donated by the Chamber of Commerce, by the end of the week
- For the meetinghouse, Karla would prefer to have bunting on all the front windows. Victoria will request Mike to get the dimensions for the windows and order them as soon as possible.
- For the lift to hang the buntings, Tim Halliday, but he potentially sold it to DTS. Request to sponsor for part of the cost. Claudia offered to reach out to a contact that she has as well.

- Take down the bunting after Columbus Day, and if possible, have it hung by Memorial Day.

T-SHIRTS:

- Working with B&B Blanks out of New Ipswich, NH.
- The cost quoted per T-Shirt was $14; if sold online, it will cost $15 to cover the credit card processing fee. The price at which it will be sold will be determined.
- There is an option to press t-shirts on site the day of the parade/celebration, but she does have to charge more per shirt due to the need to bulk order. We would also need a volunteer to run the table, collecting money and selling the shirts. She is just there to stay and press the t-shirts. This is also a weather-permitting option.
- There is also an option for an online store, which she recommends only having open for 2 weeks and would need to close 10-12 days before the date they need to be available for pick up. There is also an option to offer shipping; likely, the customer would pay for it.
- Questions to Follow Up On: Is it possible to buy them online for a couple of weeks after the event and pay for shipping? Is it the same price for children and adult sizes? Does she offer kids' sizes? T-shirts available for pick-up on the day of the event at the booth? Will there be a credit card reader on site?

SPONSORSHIPS, VENDORS, & BANDS - SEE ATTACHMENT A – Update from Chamber

- The list of sponsors needs to be set by Friday, May 22nd.
- The layout in previous years had the Food Vendors near the Meetinghouse, and all other vendors on the common
- Discussion about Kona Ice, popsicles will be provided by the Women's Club, because of the number of desserts being offered.
- Karla stated that the Historical Society will be serving strawberry shortcake as well.
- Will need to confirm with the Fire Department that they will have a tent/be a vendor.

<u>New Business</u>:

EXPENSES/REIMBURSEMENT:

- Spend the $5,000 allotted for the 250th in the Town budget first. If money has already been spent, a receipt must be submitted with a reimbursement form, which can be requested from Finance. If you would like to spend money, a check request form can be submitted with an invoice. If it can be spent using a credit card, a committee member can send the link/information to Victoria, and she can order it.

FLYERS:

- Brought up by Pat, but no further discussion occurred.

SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT:

- Lynda gave the Special Events Permit to Rachel.

DEDICATION OF LIBERTY ELM:

- It was decided to have the dedication of the Liberty Elm, after the Parade completes at 7:00 pm, then ring the bell 250 times after the dedication.

GRAND MARSHAL AND PARADE MARSHAL:

- Grand Marshall will be the oldest person in Town. Victoria is in the process of ordering the Boston Cane to dedicate to that person and will request that they be the Parade Marshal as well. Karla confirmed who the person was.
- Parade Marshall is to direct the parade. Mike Whitehead organized and led the Memorial Day Parade last year and did a great job. They will request him to do so again this year for both the Memorial Day Parade and the 250th Celebration.

GAMES:

- Franklin Pierce Volunteers – likely scratched due to the small number of students and staff that are physically on campus in the summer.
- Request Interact/National Honors Society – to volunteer to organize games & to help pick up on Saturday.
- Email Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to see if they would like to be involved.
- Games – 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, have the high school students direct them.
- One person to help with keeping up with the trash cans from overflowing.
- Face Painting was mentioned, which will be organized by the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization?)

CAKE DECORATING CONTEST:

- This idea was scratched due to the difficulty of organizing.

LIGHT UP THE TOWN:

- Tying the decoration to getting a free t-shirt
- Business winner and Homeowner winner
- Dan in charge?
- Start on June 14th, which is Flag Day, get decorations out by then, LIGHT UP NIGHT!
- The most liked photo on Facebook will win
- Ends on June 25th – competition June 14th through June 25th
- Picture for the winner goes in the chamber newsletter

Meeting Adjourned: Pat motioned to close the meeting. Claudia seconded the motion; there were none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.