

**CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BICENTENNIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 19, 2007**

**6:30 P.M.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Boser  
Mary Elizabeth Dunbar  
Sid Emmons  
Rigel Johnson  
Terry Martin  
Ann Padlo  
Phil Palen  
Evelyn Penman  
Paul Schafer  
Dixon Stevens via conference call  
Steve Teachman  
Bill Watkins

OTHERS:

Mrs. Emmons  
Mrs. Johnson  
Mrs. Tom Moser  
Cheryl O'Keefe  
Brian Quinn, Salamanca Press  
Jack Searles, Co. Administrator

Mr. Searles welcomed the attendees. Introductions were made. Packets were distributed. The packets included: an agenda; Resolution #174-2007 that created the Cattaraugus County Bicentennial Advisory Committee; a list of appointed members with their contact information; a suggested list of committees to be created; a proposed logo and how it could look on letterhead; a brief history of Cattaraugus County; a list of various, but not limited to, activities and events scheduled for 2007 from the 2007 Cattaraugus County Travel Guide; a list of bicentennial related web pages and the 2007 Cattaraugus County Travel Guide.

Mr. Searles explained that all meetings are open to the general public and the public is encouraged to attend for their input. Volunteers will be the key to the success of this celebration. When a vote is required only those appointed to the committee are eligible to vote.

It was mentioned that some funding is available to assist with promotional efforts, but this funding does come with some stringent restrictions. This funding must be used for economic development purposes. This can incorporate either a bicentennial theme or one focused on bringing people back to Cattaraugus County who may have left the area. Within the parameters, funds can be used for advertising purposes. It was suggested that Tom Livak from Cattaraugus County Economic Development, Planning and Tourism be invited to a meeting to explain the details for the use of this money.

Mr. Searles explained that Cheryl O'Keefe from his office would be part of the support staff that the County will provide as well as mailings, etc.

The committee agreed upon a logo that indicates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the county. A theme will need to be discussed later. These two items will be used throughout the entire bicentennial celebration.

There was much brainstorming on a variety of topics. Below are those ideas.

- ~Crystal Abers, County Chairman has offered one of her watercolors for a fundraiser.
- ~Jack Searles has offered his time for eBay sales.
- ~Contact all Chambers of Commerce to include all those involved in the bed tax.
- ~What merchandise do we want to sell?

- ~Contact the After-Hours groups from the Chambers for ideas
- ~Use the historical societies
- ~Have a different historical society open each week
- ~Find ways to get people to attend events
- ~Have equestrian events
- ~Involve the Fire Advisory committee
- ~Have a “float” of some sort to attend all parades/events in the County and in the surrounding areas (i.e. Rushford Labor Day weekend) during the bicentennial year as well as 2007
- ~Create a postcard book to sell
- ~Have an event on March 11, 2008 to “kickoff” the bicentennial year in Ellicottville (first county seat)
- ~How to get youth involved – one way is to have horse events, Chinese auction
- ~Get history teachers involved
- ~Event to generate excitement prior to the “kickoff” such as an introduction event
- ~St. Bonaventure University will be celebrating its sesquicentennial the same year, they are interested in being a part of our celebration as SBU had a role in the early history of the County
- ~Terry Martin is interested in getting an Underground Railroad grant for Cattaraugus County as there is much underground railroad history in this county. Warren County has an Underground Railroad director that he will be contacting for information.

It was suggested that each committee member bring 3-5 ideas to the next meeting so a decision can be made and plans can get underway. A request for flip charts and a 2008 calendar be available at the meeting to help facilitate a brainstorming process.

The committee decided that a vision of what the celebration should look like needs to be decided. Once there is a plan agreed upon, and then different committees can begin working on the various aspects of the plan. The committee needs to have a plan in place before sharing the information with the public.

A chairman for the committee has not been chosen; however, Dr. Dixon Stevens volunteered to be co-chairman or vice chairman.

The committee discussed that they should meet more frequently (about every 2 weeks) during the early stages of planning. The meetings will have an approximate timeframe of 6:00-8:00 p.m. and meeting locations will rotate throughout the county. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in the Cattaraugus County Center in Little Valley. Mr. Bill Watkins will host the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the Machias Library.

The meeting adjourned about 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl O’Keefe  
Secretary to County Administrator

