

# Rush Bicentennial Brainstorming Meeting

## Minutes

March 2, 2016

Attending: Kevin Yost, Kirsten Flass, David Sluberski, Cathy Frank, Sue Mee

The meeting was held for the purpose of brainstorming ideas for celebrating the Town's bicentennial in 2018. Although still two years away, this first meeting was held to begin to formulate a plan of events and activities and to be able to budget accordingly.

Sue distributed a list of possible events and activities that she compiled based on what other towns have done for their bicentennial celebrations, ideas from other town residents and also included her own ideas.

A first topic of discussion was the number and frequency of events that should be planned. Sue initially thought at least one event per month would be good. Events for different age groups would be considered so that as many people as possible could participate. After some discussion, fewer events were considered. Perhaps quarterly or seasonal events would be more appropriate. Attendance and participation is a concern so the number of events has not yet been determined.

In reflecting on how the sesquicentennial and the 175<sup>th</sup> were celebrated, it is recognized that the bicentennial will likely be different in a variety of ways. Of major consideration is the change within our community and families in general. Many of the sesqui-events involved people being in the hamlet for businesses that are no longer here. Another consideration is that many more Moms were stay-at-home Moms than there are now. These are both significant factors that will likely have an impact on event participation so it is important to carefully evaluate the selected events and not just replicate much of what was done previously.

Henrietta will also be celebrating their bicentennial the same year. It was suggested that perhaps one/some events be joint events with Henrietta. One event that was in favor was a district school house tour by school bus for both Rush and Henrietta. There were many school houses located in both towns prior to centralization.

After reviewing items on the shared idea list, group discussion favored the following:

- School House Site Tour with Henrietta (co-event)
- Old Time Baseball Game with Henrietta
- Gala Event at WildWood in June/July
- Parades – Bicentennial theme
- Beer Making Contest
- Beard Growing Contest
- What's It Contest – identifying items from the past
- Geocaching Event of Historical Sites around town
- Time Capsule
- Duck Races over the falls
- Kayaking event from Rush to Henrietta or Avon
- Rush Rifle Range – potential sponsor of skeet shoot event
- Rush River Refuge: Re-enactment Camp
- Rush Business Directory with photos
- Other favored ideas included bicentennial flags in hamlet, hanging flower baskets

The sale of promotional items was also discussed. By law, the town cannot legally be involved in fund-raising. They can sell items at cost or at a reasonably marked up price. If a historical association was formed and registered (fees involved) as a **501(c)(3)**, that group could organize fund-raising events. Sue will include information in her town newsletter column asking if there is community interest in forming an historical association. Interest and response will determine if we move forward with forming a historical society.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th, at 7 pm in the Town Hall.

*-Sue*

Susan Mee  
Rush Town Historian