

**375th Birthday Celebration Town of Guilford
February 17, 2015
Community Center
5:30pm**

Minutes

Present: Veronica Wallace, Anita Catardi, Stephen Page, Paul Mei, Gene Bishop, Roberta Flannery and Brian McGlone

Absent: Carl Balestracci, Heidi Samuelson, Lisa Calderone, Janet Testa

Wallace called meeting called to order at 5:40pm

Public: None

Discussion took place regarding the Endowment. Wallace explained that Connecticut General Statutes and the Town of Guilford Charter prohibit a municipality from gifting money. A municipality can accept gifts but cannot give a gift. Further, the specific fundraising done by the 375th indicated all fundraising was going to go toward putting on events for the 375th Anniversary Year. Two town attorneys have advised the 375th committee against establishing an endowment for the Guilford museums. The committee was advised that it can return excess donations.

All Members present expressed disappointment and exasperation.

Wallace made the suggestion to the members present that the 375th committee return the \$2K donation to the Guilford Foundation made for the Civil War event. At the time, funds were not available to go forth with the event, and the Guilford Foundation donated \$2K. Now that all 375th expenses are paid, and there are funds available, Wallace felt it appropriate to return the money to the Foundation so they can continue their good work.

Anita Catardi motioned the above and Gene Bishop seconded. Vote: Unanimously in favor.

Discussion continued regarding the Guilford Museums and the Agricultural Society and all the work and expenses they incurred in putting on the 375th Anniversary Events. It was felt it appropriate to reimburse the Agricultural Society, The Hyland House, The Dudley Farm and the Dorothy Whitfield Historical Society (which is inclusive of the Medad Tavern and the Thomas Griswold House) for expenses relating to supporting Guilford 375th Events. Any remaining funds, would then be earmarked for the Installation of an East West access sidewalk to commemorate the 375th Celebration under the direction of the Green Committee, with a commemorative plaque installed in the sidewalk nearest the Town Hall. The members present felt that so much of our time and work had gone into the celebration year that the members unable to attend tonight's meeting be given the opportunity to vote on the matter. The committee decided the Chairman would recap the meeting and send it out to all members and the committee will then reconvene in two weeks (March 2nd) for a vote.

Veronica Wallace then brought up the matter of the \$2K still pending in the legal matter with Jordan Caterers. Anita Catardi motioned if and when the Town of Guilford received the \$2K back, it go toward the 400th Anniversary. Roberta Flannery seconded. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Next Meeting: Monday, March 2nd 5:30 pm Community Center (pending confirmation)