

**Block Island 350 Committee Meeting**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**Friday, February 4, 2011**  
**1:00 p.m.**

[This meeting was scheduled Wednesday, February 23 to replace the meeting, canceled due to snow, that was scheduled for 4:00 p.m. that day.]

**Present:** Committee Members Co-Chair Fran Migliaccio, Co-Chair Connie LaRue, Martha Ball, Pam Gasner and Alternate Bill Wilson.

**Also present:** Block Island Tourism Council Executive Director **Jessica Willi.**

**Call to Order**

Ms. Migliaccio called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Approve Minutes of November 30, 2010**

Ms. LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2010. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Ms. Rousseau, Acting Treasurer for the Committee, Ms. Migliaccio reported that the Committee treasury stands at about \$16,000, an estimate that was given by Ms. Rousseau prior to the meeting.

**Old Business**

Ms. Migliaccio presented five items requiring votes for expenditures by the Committee:

- Block Island School Anniversary Pageant, scheduled for May 15: in response to a request by teacher Nancy Greenaway. Ms. LaRue moved that up to \$200 be authorized for this purpose. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Street performer Larry Rettig (dba Flippo the Jugglin' Clown), scheduled for May 28: in response to a request by coordinator Henry Peterson, Mr. Wilson moved that up to \$550 be authorized to pay for accommodation of, and four hours of work from, Mr. Rettig. Ms. LaRue seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Billy Stubbs Night, scheduled for June 30 at Dead-Eye Dick's: in response to a request by coordinator Bruce Johnson, Mr. Wilson moved that up to \$500 be authorized to pay for moving Billy Stubbs's original piano to and from the event, and for tuning it before and after the event. After brief discussion on the condition and location of the piano, Ms. LaRue seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Lighthouse Celebration at Southeast Light, scheduled for the evening of September 24: in response to a request from pianist Anders Vercelli for a fee of \$350 for three hours of solo piano playing (discounted from his usual rate of \$150 to \$200 per hour), Ms. LaRue moved that \$350 be authorized for this purpose. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Flags: in response to a request from Bruce Johnson that the Committee pay for six 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flags, at the cost of \$31.00 each, to be flown in Old Harbor during the summer, Ms. LaRue moved that \$186 be authorized for this purpose. Ms. Ball seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Willi stated that she will be in touch with Mr. Johnson with regard to the Tourism Council's offer to put up the flags and take them down.

### **New Business**

Ms. Gasner presented a statement of 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative merchandise that she has sold through the Block Island Historical Society Museum. Sales brought in a total of \$1,112.50, and Ms. Gasner will write a check in that amount to the 350<sup>th</sup> Committee from the Block Island Historical Society. She will submit the inventory statement for the merchandise to Ms. Rousseau.

Ms. Migliaccio presented an idea posed to her by Henry Peterson concerning Settlers Rock. After observing that there is very little room to place a new plaque on the rock to commemorate the Island's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of settlement, Mr. Peterson suggested that the Committee ask the Town for one of the large rocks currently at the Town Beach parking lot, place that rock next to Settlers Rock, and put a 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque on it. After brief discussion, the Committee rejected this course of action.

Ms. Ball stated that Settlers Rock needs to be raised, and when it is raised, an existing base and additional space on the rock below the current plaque should become visible.

Ms. Gasner offered to explore with Rob Gilpin the feasibility of raising the rock and putting a small additional plaque on it. She offered to apply to the Town Council for approval to raise the rock (should this course of action prove feasible), stating that she must apply to the Council for permission to erect a monument to the Manisseans. She further stated that she will get an estimate for a small bronze plaque that could be placed on Settlers Rock, as she is currently dealing with a plaque company in conjunction with the Manissean monument. All present agreed with Ms. Gasner's proposed actions.

Ms. Migliaccio and Ms. LaRue presented a list of 13 upcoming 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events that need coordination of details by a planner assigned to each event:

- Thursday, June 16, Heritage Presentation Series: Slide show of Block Island's 1961 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the National Hotel, 4-7 pm, narrated by Martha Ball. Sponsored by the National Hotel and the Block Island Historical Society Museum.

Ms. Gasner and Ms. Ball stated that they are coordinating this event.

- Saturday, June 18: Founders Day. Day of ceremony and celebration includes re-dedication of Settlers Rock at the north end of the island, where the founding fathers and mothers landed.

Ms. Migliaccio stated that she, Ms. LaRue and Edith Blane will work on this event. Ms. Gasner observed that she is already involved in facets of Founders Day planning, and expressed interest in working on it.

- Thursday, June 23, Heritage Presentation Series: Rhode Island author Gerald Carbone gives a presentation on General Nathanael Greene (1742–1786) and his wife, Caty Littlefield, of Block Island.

Ms. Gasner will coordinate this event, and noted that Caty Littlefield is related to her own family.

- Wednesday, July 6: Beacon Hill Day. Tour historic Beacon Hill, 10 am to 2 pm. Courtesy of homeowner Carol Brown and her family.

Ms. Gasner will coordinate this event with property owner Carol Brown.

- Tuesday, July 19: Tour Tall Ship "Mystic Whaler" at Block Island Boat Basin Dock. Dockside reception 4 pm, with refreshments and music. Sponsored by the Block Island Boat Basin and the Mystic Whaler.
- Tuesday, August 16: Visit Tall Ship "Mystic Whaler" at Block Island Boat Basin dock for reception, 4 pm, with refreshments and informal Colonial music by David and Ginger Hildebrand. Sponsored by the Block Island Boat Basin and the Mystic Whaler.

Ms. Migliaccio stated that she has been working with Captain Eginton on these two events and would welcome help. Ms. LaRue offered to work with her.

- Thursday, July 28, Heritage Presentation Series: Don Rittner — author, Schenectady County and City Historian, and president of The Onrust Project — gives a presentation on "Onrust," the replica of Dutch explorer Adriaen Block's ship completed and launched in 2009.

Ms. Migliaccio stated that she will ask Glenda Thuener to coordinate this, as Ms. Thuener is a friend of Mr. Rittner.

- Saturday, July 30: The Wakefield Band presents an outdoor concert, its first ever on Block Island. Time and place to be announced. (Rain date: Sunday, July 31.)

This event is still in need of a coordinator to work with band member Deborah Howarth.

- Monday, August 15: Concert of Colonial music played on period instruments by David and Ginger Hildebrand, founders of the Colonial Music Institute, 7:30 pm, location to be announced.

Ms. Migliaccio stated that she has been working on this event and will continue with it.

- Thursday, August 25, Heritage Presentation Series: Professors Johan Varekamp and Ellen Thomas present a program on the environmental history of Block Island: climate, landscape changes, pollution and history, ecosystem shifts.

Ms. Gasner will coordinate this event.

- Thursday, September 8, Heritage Presentation Series: Professor, author and speaker Robert Thorson will speak on Block Island's kettle hollows, ponds and stone walls.

Mr. Wilson will coordinate this event.

•Saturday, September 24: Annual Block Island Motoring Event and 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Island Fair, sponsored by and benefiting the Early Learning Center.

Ms. Migliaccio and Ms. LaRue will work on this event, and would welcome help.

•Lighthouse Celebration, SE Light with Anders Vercelli, September 24, evening

Ms. Gasner, Ms. Ball and Ms. LaRue will work on this event, and have already decided it will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Migliaccio thanked all present for their willingness to coordinate these events, and handed out forms, "Guidelines for 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events," to facilitate the process.

**Any other business to come before this assembly**

Ms. Migliaccio stated that a Sand Castle contest has been discussed several times at Committee meetings, but needs a coordinator. Committee member Zena Clark had offered at a previous meeting to ask Norman Riker to coordinate it, but Ms. Clark is away for a time and Mr. Riker is currently not on-Island.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Town Hall.

**Adjourn**

Ms. LaRue made a motion to adjourn at 2:32. The motion was seconded by Ms. Migliaccio, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frances Migliaccio  
Co-chair, Block Island 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Approved: February 23, 2011