**AScituate Sister City Ireland, West Cork, Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 2, 2019**

**Scituate Public Library, Small Conference Room**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Brenda O’Connor, Chair; Siobhán Hunter, Vice Chair; Kevin Callanan; Maureen Dinsmore; RJ Dwyer; Patrice Maye; John Sullivan; Carol Sullivan-Hanley; Christine Walsh

Members excused: John Danehy; Audrey Donovan; Brian Houlihan; Pat Jacquart; Richard Hebert; Patrice Maye; Peter Mehegan

Guests: Tony Vegnani

1. **Agenda**

The committee voted unanimously in favor of accepting the agenda.

1. **Report, School Exchange Committee**

The subcommittee for student exchange opportunities met with Scituate Languages Department Chair, Kate Ciulla to identify exchange goals and timeline. Feasibly, the first Scituate-West Cork student exchange would happen in 2021, with Cork students arriving in Fall 2021 and Scituate students traveling in Spring 2022. The envisioned exchange fits with Scituate High School’s goal of global competence. 15-20 students from each country will participate in the exchange. The committee feels strongly that travel costs should not be an impediment to student participation and plans to develop a scholarship to fund qualifying students who demonstrate economic need.

1. **Grants**
	1. **Emigrant Grant (Global Irish Foundation)**
* The online grant process is open January 19 through February 20
* The committee plans to apply for $1500 to seed brochure or vertical marketing banner.
* 2020 application could be for creating establishing a South Shore Heritage Trail, but this will require a lot of partnerships with other town, and there was a question of management feasibility. All agreed that the application would be more manageable if the focus was on Scituate only.
1. **Community Preservation Act**
* The next open proposal process has a deadline of 10/1/19.
* The committee will apply for support of creating a South Shore Heritage Trail.
1. **Scituate Rotary Foundation**
* The committee plans to apply for a grant to fund the student exchange program.
* The ask could entail a West Cork and Scituate Rotary exchange.
1. **Economic Development Committee**
* The committee plans to apply to the EDC for funding for a banner, brochure and/or trail map.
* The committee will find out what percentage Co. Cork contributed to their trail map to assist with the request.
1. **Delegation Visit to Ireland**
* A second delegation visit to West Cork is scheduled for June 10-18 2019. That timeline works for both Scituate visitors and West Cork hosts.
* Norwegian may be going bankrupt. Suggestion to purchase flights through Aer Lingus. Flights available for $660 round trip to Shannon.
* Lodgings will be in Cork and Clonakilty.
* Travelers: Maureen Dinsmore, Kevin Callahan, John Sullivan, Carol Sullivan-Hanley. Potential candidates: RJ Dwyer, Brian Houlihan.
1. **Fundraising**

The committee discussed the following fundraising ideas:

* Foreign Film Festival. As part of the Scituate Sister City Partnership, this committee is partnering with the Sucy-en-Brie committee on a film festival. The films will include French and Irish films. The next film, *The Matchmaker*, will air on January 10. Admission will cost $15 for the film and reception; $10 for film only. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between West Cork and Sucy-en-Brie partnerships.
* Lecture Series. Catherine Shannon will provide four lectures of our choice. The committee is thinking of the Great Hunger, Catalpa, role of women in Ireland, and Black 47. There will be a suggested donation of $10/attendee. Venue and time of day TBD. The lectures could be linked to follow up activities such as:
	+ A film on Great Hunger.
	+ A field trip to the Quinnipac Great Hunger Museum for an exhibit.
	+ A suggested book for “Book Club.”
* March 10 – tentative date for step dancing event at Scituate Public Library, with performance by Steve Lindsey.
* Reprise of successful corned beef dinner at Tinker’s Son on March 13. $50 a person. We are selling raffle tickets for $5/each to win sea glass pendant - $20 for 5.
* Fundraiser / Annual Meeting.
	+ Special event to be held at Scituate Beach Association, with music provided by Doc Ellis Band (both venue and band donated by Christine Walsh).
	+ Event could honor a person or benefactor.
	+ Date to TBD
* Giving Circle. Brenda composing a letter for renewals and increased support.
* Irish cookbook to include recipes from West Cork restaurants and treasured family recipes.
1. **Treasurer Report**

The committee’s account is currently at ($115), due to the high costs of delegation visit. We received $175 from the proceeds of the December 13 Film Night. Revenues should be coming in soon from upcoming fundraising efforts, including raffle tickets for the Triquetra necklace, tickets for the Corned Beef dinner, and the fundraising event to be scheduled.

1. **Minutes**

The committee unanimously approved the minutes from the December 5, 2018 meeting.

1. **Partnership Community Activities**

The committee discussed introducing or reprising the following community-building activities to promote the partnership:

* The committee would like to reprise a special Irish Bread day at the Senior Center. The 2018 event was well-attended. Maureen Dinsmore will reach out to organize.
* Book Club.
* Set Dancing Event.
* The committee would like a presence at the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade with either a car or a float.
* A Sister City section in Scituate Public Library is in the works.
* Irish “Lending Library.” The committee will investigate putting together an Irish “Lending Library” featuring travel books, children’s, literature, etc.
* The committee discussed the merits of a Heritage Days booth and questioned whether they might get a sponsor.
1. **Committee Meeting Schedule**

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Scituate Public Library, Large Conference Room.

* Wednesday, February 6, 7:00PM

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.