

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPORT OF THE MAINE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION



Presented to the Maine State Legislature's Joint
Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

November 2018



Herein is the November 2018 report of the Maine Bicentennial Commission, outlining our findings and recommendations to date, as required in the enabling legislation that established the commission, [Resolve 25](#) of the 128th Legislature, originally sponsored by Rep. Jim Handy, D-Lewiston, as LD 1143, “Resolve, Providing for the Official Observance of the 200th Anniversary of the Formation of the State of Maine.”

Following membership appointments as outlined in the legislation, the commission convened for the first time on Jan. 29, 2018 and has met four times since then, on April 11, June 14, August 30 and Nov. 15. An additional meeting is scheduled for Jan. 4. The minutes of these meetings are available on www.Maine200.org.

Sen. Bill Diamond, D-Windham, was appointed chairman and subsequently appointed State Archivist David Cheever as the vice chairman and Peter Merrill, chairman of the Maine Cultural Affairs Council, and deputy director of the Maine State Housing Authority, as the commission treasurer. The commission then appointed members to lead four subcommittees of the commission:

- Events/Programs Subcommittee Chairman: Alison Sucey, Maine Tourism Association, director of government affairs
- Education Subcommittee Chairman: Heather Perry, Gorham School Department, superintendent
- Marketing Subcommittee Chairman: Rep. Jim Handy
- Finance Subcommittee Chairman: Dana Connors, Maine Chamber of Commerce, president

The commission’s accomplishments to date include:

- Creation of the Maine200 logo and slogan.
- Launch of the Maine200.org website and social media feeds (@OfficialME200 on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook). The logo design and web design work are donated by Meredith Strang Burgess and her team at Burgess Advertising & Marketing in Falmouth. The web hosting is donated by Eric Tompkins of Aptuitive, based in Farmington.
- Approval of mission and vision statements
- Creation of a fundraising outreach packet with patron levels
- Preliminary planning of programs and events
- Educational guidelines for bicentennial curriculum and programs
- Non-profit status for Maine200, which is incorporated as Maine200 with the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions
- Approval of bylaws for commission operations

The commission has identified the following goals for its role in Maine's bicentennial commemoration:

- Host three signature events: A kickoff celebration in July 2019 that may include cooperation with a Tall Ships event beginning in Portland and continuing along the coast of Maine; a Statehood Day commemoration in March 2020; and a closing event in October 2020 (likely in Bangor) with completion of a time capsule
- Support and host ongoing programs that promote an appreciation of Maine's history, in all its complexity, and its present people and resources, while inspiring ideas and actions toward a bright future
- Encourage individuals, organizations and businesses around the State to embrace the bicentennial and create their own contributions to this commemoration

On Oct. 2, 2018, the commission publicly launched its outreach and fundraising efforts with an unveiling of the Maine200.org website, during a press conference at the Maine Historical Society in Portland. The website provides a centralized place for the public to access information about the commission and the state's bicentennial efforts.

The next meeting of the commission is slated for Nov. 15 and commissioners will be focusing on the fundraising efforts, including merchandising of the bicentennial, as well as firming up plans for the signature events. The commission will also be reviewing proposed programs from state agencies and organizations represented on the commission, as well as discussing a funding mechanism/review process for other programming related to the bicentennial. The 501c3 filing for Maine200 is currently pending, to allow for tax-deductible donations, and a Maine200 bank account is set up at Bangor Savings Bank to accept those donations.

We look forward to continuing our work to prepare for a fulfilling commemoration of Maine's 200 years of statehood and expect that we will have made significant progress by our next report in December 2019.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Diamond", written in a cursive style.

Sen. Bill Diamond,
Chairman, Maine Bicentennial Commission (Maine200)

*Enclosed: Vision and Mission Statements; List of commissioners and subcommittee members;
Bylaws; Meeting Minutes*