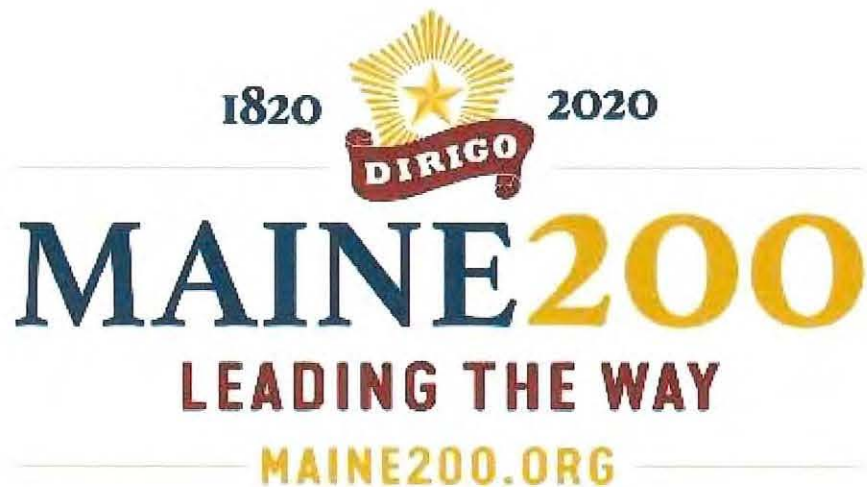


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPORT OF THE MAINE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION



Updated February 2019 for the
Maine State Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations



Herein is a February 2019 update to 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 six times since then.

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 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 Sucy, 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 corporation status for Maine200, which is incorporated as Maine200 with the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions
- Approval of bylaws for commission operations
- Approval of endorsement guidelines for programs and events seeking to identify with the bicentennial; as well as endorsement and usage guidelines for for-profit product use
- Preparatory work for a Spring 2019 launch of a webstore that will feature bicentennial merchandise, including a Maine Bicentennial Marketplace section that will feature MaineMade products
- Hiring of a bicentennial staff person, Business Manager Brad Sawyer

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

- Host four signature events: A kickoff celebration in July 2019 that will include raising the bicentennial flag; a Statehood Day commemoration in March 2020; coordination with a Tall Ships Maine event beginning in Portland and continuing along the coast of Maine in July 2020; and a closing event in October 2020 in Bangor with a future-focused exposition and celebratory dinner, as well as 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 March 1 and commissioners will be focusing on the fundraising efforts and continuing to firm up plans for the signature events and programs. The commission will also be considering proposed programs from state agencies and organizations represented on the commission. 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.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Diamond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

SIGNATURE EVENTS

July 26, 2019



Maine200 Kickoff Day

Location/details TBD
Announce planned events and programs to encourage engagement statewide

March 14-15, 2020



Statehood Day Weekend March 14-15, 2020, Statewide/ Augusta Armory or Statehouse

- Saturday night bean suppers hosted by various groups statewide, incorporating food drives
- Speeches, poetry and musical performance, display of statehood papers, Hall of Flags

July 16-19, 2020



Summer Celebration featuring Tall Ships Maine July 16-19, 2020, Portland/Coast

- City of Portland to host wide-ranging festival in concurrence with tall ships appearances, city-wide, in commemoration of being Maine's first capital city
- Opportunities to host events/galas/ local and national 2020 candidates and other dignitaries aboard ships or in nearby venues
- Tall Ships Maine to offer educational experiences for youth, travel ships to various ports along the coast; may include Rockland, Bucksport and others

Oct. 10-12, 2020



Grand Finale Weekend

October 10-12, 2020, Bangor/Augusta/Statewide

- "Leading the Way" Expo, featuring Maine companies and nonprofits showcasing the technologies and innovations of the future, Friday, Oct. 9, Cross Insurance Center, Bangor
- Recognition dinner (invitation only) for sponsors, donors and volunteers, featuring Maine foods and entertainment, Friday, Oct. 9, Cross Insurance Center, Bangor
- Final Blaine House concert, Friday, Oct. 9, Cross Insurance Center, Bangor
- Bicentennial Festival: Entertainment and activities in Capitol Park; and official sealing of the time capsule by the capsule keepers, Saturday, Oct. 10, Capitol Park/ Statehouse complex, Augusta
- Cultural Days: Events hosted by religious and cultural groups statewide, recognizing the different cultures that made up Maine's past and are part of Maine's present; to include a multi-denominational statewide Maine convocation and a citizenship naturalization ceremony (location TBD), Oct. 10-12, 2020, Statewide