

# **Celebrating the Town of Suffield's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



<http://www.suffieldct.gov/town/boards/Suffield350>

Last updated 12/12/2018

# 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlement of Suffield is **October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. The Board of Selectmen created a committee to organize the commemoration:

- ✧ The 350th Anniversary Committee's mission shall be to regularly meet to plan and coordinate a series of events, learning activities and social and cultural opportunities which will lead to an awareness and appreciation by all about the rich, 350 year history, life experience and growth of the Town of Suffield.
- ✧ The committee's goal encompasses developing strategies and planning events that allow opportunities for the greatest amount of town wide participation. It will further seek public and private contributions in its effort to highlight Suffield's rich political, social, cultural, economic, educational, agricultural and religious history.
- ✧ The 350th anniversary observance shall create a stronger sense of community, enhance tourism and promote continued economic growth and prosperity in the Town of Suffield (approved by the Board of Selectmen 6/7/17).
- ✧ The First Selectman, serving as ex officio, and nine (9) members will comprise the 350th Anniversary Committee from its inception in June, 2017 through the events completion in 2020 (approved by the Board of Selectmen 6/7/17).

# Committee Membership

**Cari Cieri** ccieri@cox.net

**Kacy Colston** kacycolston@icloud.com ♦ ♦ ♦ *Committee Chair*

**Caroline d'Otreppe** caroline.dotreppe@gmail.com

**Matt Joyal** m.joyal@utas.utc.com

**Melissa Mack** mmack@suffieldct.gov ♦ ♦ ♦ *Ex Officio Member*

**Aysha Lee Moore** aysha0779@gmail.com ♦ ♦ ♦ *Committee Secretary*

**Norm Noble** njnoble@cox.net

**Eric Remington** eric.remington@ymail.com

**Art Sikes** artsikes@aol.com

**Lester Smith** lws5@cox.net

The committee meets at 7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in the lower level of the Town Hall.

# The First Meeting

*The committee's recommendation is that the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary be a year-long celebration!*

- ✧ The 350<sup>th</sup> “big weekend” is Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> through Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- ✧ Other 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration events will start on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and run throughout 2020
- ✧ Every resident, club, student, school group, non-profit organization and business should have an opportunity to participate if they wish to

Initially, the committee will be organized into 5 focus areas:

**Events** (including projects and programs) that celebrate Suffield's wonderful open spaces, it's rich history, and it's exciting future

**Communications** – to give everyone in town a way to share their ideas, and to keep up-to-date on what is being planned

**Outreach** – to get people and organizations interested in participating – engage schools, churches, businesses, clubs, associations, and nonprofits

**Fundraising** – to encourage private donations and apply for grants to help fund projects, programs, and events

**Finance** – to insure that event costs and benefits are understood, and insure that funds raised are spent wisely

Revolutionary  
War muster

Pageant

Road race

Refresh the signage  
on historic houses  
around town

# How to celebrate?

Lots of great ideas...

History of the tobacco  
industry in Suffield

Student art show

Native American  
influences program

Pumpkin chunkin  
contest

Develop a "Main St. Walking  
Tour" app for smartphone

Bike race

Aerial photographs from  
the past 80 years

Schedule scanning days  
so residents can have  
their own historic  
documents digitized

Cemetery tours and  
gravestone rubbing

Polish party with Polish  
food and a polka band

Polish heritage program

Oldest & newest  
houses

Program on the influence of  
slavery in Suffield

Contests for "official" 350<sup>th</sup>  
car, truck and motorcycle

Tractor pull

**The committee will focus on a few ideas, and coordinate with clubs and organizations on others...**

# Suffield 350<sup>th</sup> - The “Big Weekend”

A full schedule of events for October 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Gala Evening Event

*Huge* parade down  
Main Street

Theatrical  
Performances

Carnival

Sports events

Fireworks

Barn Dance

Picnic on the Green

Musical  
Performances

Dance  
Performances

House, garden  
and farm tours

Concert

Inspirational Speaker

# Projects and Programs

350<sup>th</sup> volunteers will drive several major projects

Re-Issue  
“Biography of a Town:  
Suffield, CT 1670-1970”  
*written for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

Write and publish  
“50 Stories for 50 Years”  
a companion volume to  
“Biography of a Town”

Erect a permanent structure  
to display *current events*  
banners across a main street

Barn Quilt Tour  
*a public art project  
for everyone*

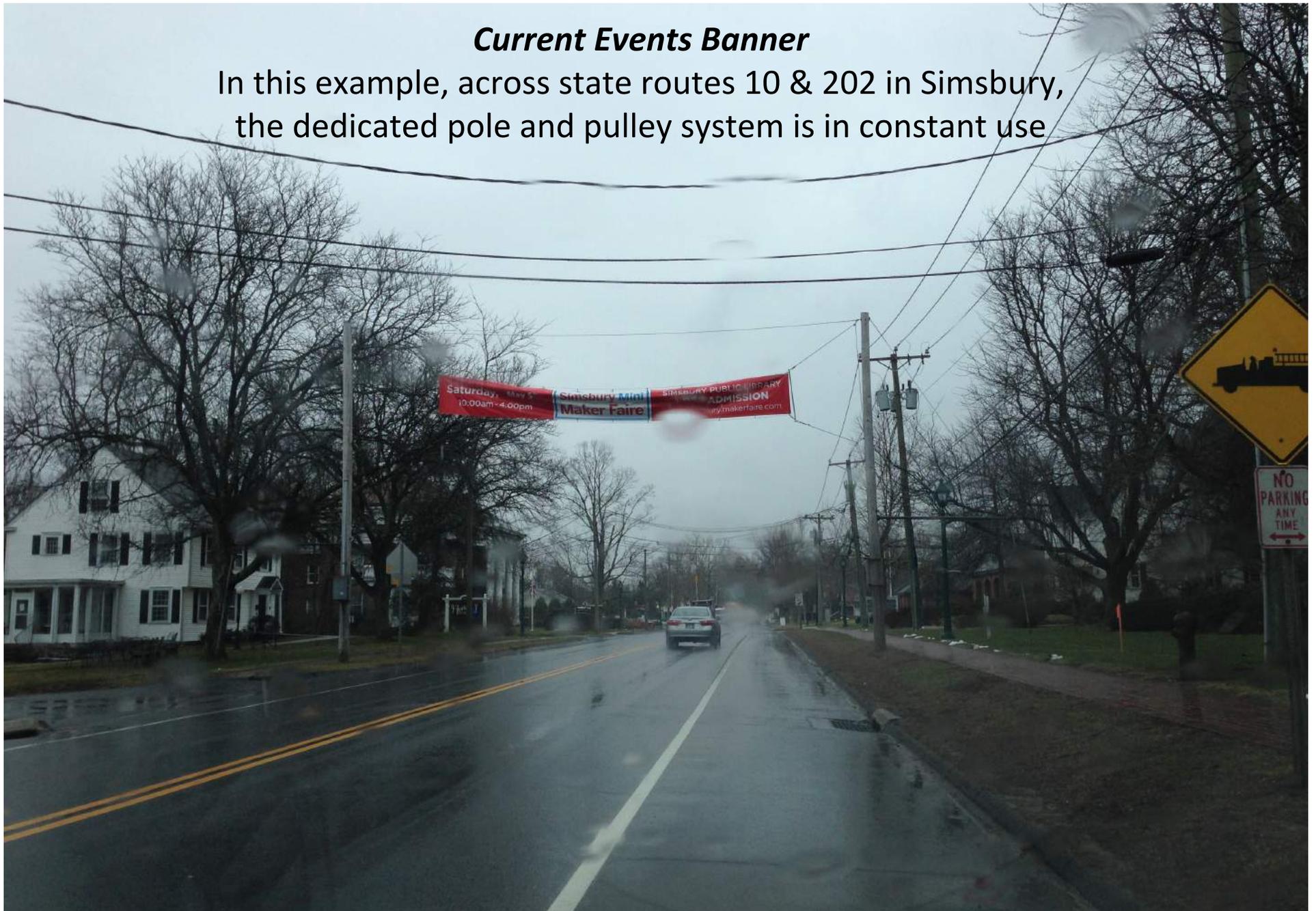
Create telephone pole  
banners celebrating  
historic figures

Publish a 2020 calendar  
promoting all the special  
events for the 350th  
*“366 things to do in Suffield”*

Suffield 350<sup>th</sup> Store  
shop for memorabilia online  
or with selected local retailers

## ***Current Events Banner***

In this example, across state routes 10 & 202 in Simsbury, the dedicated pole and pulley system is in constant use



Local artists and artisans will be invited to create unique barn quilts for public display, but anyone can make their own - workshops will be scheduled



About \$100 for a 4x8 sheet of MDO signboard



Many Suffield notables could be recognized, not limited to our military heroes



# Fundraisers

The committee will raise money to support the events, projects and programs

Create and sell 350<sup>th</sup> memorabilia – caps, key chains, mugs, etc.

Annual golf fundraisers, beginning with one at SCC on October 13th, 2018!

Sell commemorative coins – possibly a series of 3 with Police, Fire, and Ambulance logos on the reverse

Suffield Trivial Pursuit championship

New Years Eve Ball on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

Coffee and tea party fundraisers

Suffield *Passport to Adventure*

Grant writing

Ice cream socials

Restaurant donation of 10% of the check

Reusable grocery bag illustrated with maps of Suffield farm stands

Cocktail party fundraisers

Sell advertising in a commemorative program

2020 Calendar – 366 Things To Do in Suffield

Sell event and venue sponsorships

# How Can You Get Involved?

- ✧ Is there a project, program or event you or a group you are involved with would like to host?
- ✧ Do you want to work on an event or project driven by the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee?
- ✧ Do you have time to volunteer to work with one of the subcommittees?
- ✧ Can you help with fundraising?
- ✧ Do you want to include a 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme in one of your organization's regular events?

Talk with a member of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

eMail [Suffield350@gmail.com](mailto:Suffield350@gmail.com) to set up a meeting.

Call 860-758-0115 and leave a message for us.

Share your thoughts with us on Facebook or Instagram **@Suffield350**.