

July 4th Committee Meeting 8/4/16

Meeting was opened by Chairman, Bob Ward a little after 7 pm. 8 members present, Doug Phelps, Donna French, Mary Champney (new member, sister of Betty), Betty Adams, Bob Ward, Wood Sutton, Judy Perreault, and Beth Frost. This is a wrap up meeting after the fourth. Fireworks were good...no spaces, added boomers. People clapped during and at the end. Better than last year. A different man was lighting them off than last year...Doug will ask for him again next year.

Collections were better than ever before....Judy's total was \$9,027! (The total on the spreadsheet where Beth entered the donations came to \$9,022.)

It was a perfect summer day!! The pancake breakfast was great!

Doug reported that he had 50 entries on the Green.....and they were good ones, not "junk"! To name a few: old fashioned steam pump, gasoline motor running a pump, lots of good vendors. The "professional" Proctor person (the one we didn't like as he is an antique dealer) set up in the free space we had provided (and actually paid us \$50!). There was a slight mix-up in the space marked for them and the space for the Pipe & Drum group, but got straightened out. Everyone was friendly and outgoing, in general. The Kearsarge Community Band was very good and some chairs had been set up in front of them where people sat to listen. Other high lights on the Green were the kids games/crafts (Alita P, Joanna S, & Elita R). No one wanted to joust! But lots wanted to do the visor craft (decorating it). The ladies decided to charge for it after all because so many wanted to do it.....so charged 50 cents each (raised \$40). They did this booth until 2 pm (9-2). Ages of kids mostly around 4 yrs old and 8 or 9 yrs old.

We need to figure out a way to raise more money to cover the bands (Doug paid them out of pocket this year as he wanted to see how it would go). Maybe we could get sponsors....we will talk about funding at next meeting.

The photo contest was a big hit! There were about 30 photos. The Andover Community Association did this and are very enthused...plan to do it again next year. The photos are currently on display in the Town Hall.....the prize ribbons are on them.

Keith Barrett did a good job with the sound, as always. Doug thinks/hopes he will do it again next year. He will talk with him.

Doug's vision for next year's celebration is two things:

- 1) have the Historical society set up an 18th century dining room on the Green
- 2) find some of the old games we used to have on the midway like the spin wheel, baseball throw. Doug heard that some people still have the original games in their basements. He would like to have them set up on display....and maybe even have a midway during the day at first and then maybe at night too before the fireworks.

(Might be hard to find people to man this, but even an exhibit would be fun.)

The guy selling hotdogs on Carr Field did very well! (He hasn't paid us yet, but Wood thinks he will.) also, the glow sticks were a big hit again.....he never paid us either....and never approached us....got permission from Proctor to be there.

Wood suggested that we do something different with the set- up of porta potties as the ones closest to the vendors got lots of use and ran out of toilet paper while the others didn't get used much at all. Someone suggested that we put them all together in a row like at the fair. All agreed.

Someone suggested we have a street dance next year.....if enough people stay around for the music, it would work.

Another idea for next year: have our own food booth before & during the fireworks to raise more \$! Hamburgers, grinders, ice cream. Talk about this next meeting.

The forest fire warden will be checking propane user booths next year for extinguishers and to be sure tanks are up to date. We need to add this to the registration form.

The 5 K race had the largest number of entries ever! Over 100 signed up on the day and 166 finished the race! They raised over \$2,000 (for the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts). We don't get any money from them and we need to check into this. (Used to be run by the rail trail group...now is run by the Scouts.)

The parade registration did NOT go well! List of problems:

- 1) several people showed up late to register...like 5 min before noon! And many were just plain rude to Michelle, who was lining them up. She said she wasn't doing this again! (Doug & Donna met with her and her dad since to hopefully convince them to do it again next year if we figure out how to resolve the problems and line up more helpers.)
- 2) We need a person to be at the end of Field House Lane at all time so the people know where to go. And need signs!
- 3) Give the entrants their numbers when they come in.
- 4) Too many extra cars with the entrants. They need to park elsewhere....can come in and drop off people and/or stuff and then leave. Give them a ticket to park in a special spot?
- 5) Try to force pre-registration.
- 6) Change registration form.

Someone suggested having a police officer there, but Wood strongly objected. Someone suggested maybe we rent a golf cart for the person lining up the parade.

Parade looked good. But the winners weren't announced! The announcers couldn't see the numbers on the floats! Was a very chaotic time. We need to control better...try to communicate ahead of time.

Old 4th celebration signs at each end of town were taken to the dump. The new one was taken to Arch Weathers, who will make another. It was suggested that the committee make a float next year....and to encourage businesses and organizations like baseball teams and Scouts to do a float or March. (Someone go to the school near the end of the school year to suggest this.)

Need more people for parade. Need 2 for registration and more for line up. Walkie/talkies would be great. We will revamp the registration form.

We need to start advertising now for next year....our 75th! Maybe have a big prize for best float? (Talk about this next meeting.). Numbers on the floats need to be visible! Maybe have the float flash their number when passing the review stand or have a person check numbers before they get to the stand and communicate with announcers. Donna did a great job this year with the parade.

Wood thinks that organizations like snowmobile club should have a float next year, on top of their food or other booths. Donna will bring a list of entrants to next meeting. A theme next year might be The Summer of '42!

Opening Ceremony:

A big problem! Margo Coolidge was very upset not to be singing the National Anthem! She made it clear to Bob. After the parade, Dr Coolidge also gave Bob a dressing down. Judy suggested the committee send Margo a letter of apology and ask her to sing a medley again next year at noon. If she declines, we have Mrs Tripp (solo or with someone else) sing it. A theme appropriate medley from 1942.

The flag raising was great! The American Legion did a great job. They also had a float. We also had the Pledge of Allegiance this year. Bob called the school and three brothers volunteered to recite it. Also, at the school's suggestion, students who had perfect attendance this year got to ring the bell at Proctor at noon after the anthem.

The Road Relics had a good show but chose not to be in the parade.

The Closets to the Pin did very well! Raised a lot of money....almost \$400!

Note: Wood is going to try again for a Black Hawk helicopter for next year...come hell or high water!

Music lasted from 1 pm to 7 pm.....band concerts and others. It seemed like people did stay around longer.

Bob will contact the marching bands for next year. The new one Lyme Town was good! (But they came in too many cars! Maybe have them play on the Green next year too.

Judy suggested we advertise even more next year. Maybe we could get WMUR to come.....chronicle? Magazines?

The Kids Parade went well....tho the count was down.....about 15 compared to 21 last year. Using the fire station worked really well. Beth suggested we move the line up and judging up even more to make the time of standing around less. Example, register at 11:45 and judging at noon (because tho the parade starts at noon, it doesn't get around to where the kids jump in until twenty minutes later.). The firemen were at first a little Keary of us using their place as we couldn't set up until the trucks vacated, which was about 11 and then had to clean up and be out of the way so they could come back in after the parade, about 1. But we managed and it went well. (Beth will talk to fire chief to see if we can use again next year.)

Hello All,

Below and attached, please find the August 4th of July Meeting Minutes.

Alita

Next year medley will be a 1942 medley not a patriotic on
Music from 1 to 7 pm worked great! Will do again next year.

Fireworks next year.....maybe bigger display, more money? Some agree and some no!! Judy says then we won't be able to go back down the next year. Tabled this for next meeting. Bob will ask the fireworks peopl if they would agree to say \$10,000 next year and back to \$8,000 the next year.

Treasurer report: we need to pay Charlie \$1,000. Not all income is in. We will probably end up \$1,000 in the hole.

Next meeting on September 7. Will discuss program distribution then as well as fundraising issues. Meeting adjourned a little after 9 pm.