

4th July Meeting/Minutes 10/6/21

Meeting opened by Doug Phelps at about 7 PM. Members present were: Doug Phelps, Alita Phelps, Shawna Otis, Betty Adams, Donna Smith, Beth Frost, Judy Perreault, Wood Sutton, Kevin Goodwin and Jen Bent.

Betty brought delicious muffins and bread which were enjoyed. She has already started collecting items for our raffle next year.. She gave a list of what she has been promised so far to Judy, as Betty will be heading to FL for the winter soon.

We looked at lists of parade theme suggestions that we had left over from the AEMS students. Next year will be our 80th. Shawna suggested The American Dream. Most thought that was good. But then Judy suggested something like Around the World in 80 Days.....changing the wording to fit Andover. All really liked this idea and we finally came up with Around Our Town in 80 Years. Wood made a motion to use this and Jen seconded. All voted in favor. It was suggested we keep Shawna's suggestion in mind for another year.

Shawna then suggested we show the old movie Around the World in 80 Days on a big screen similar to the 8th grade graduation last spring. Jen said that cost a lot of money....like \$3500! Doug thought maybe we could show it the same night as the concert.....after the concert. We will think about this and explore the cost.

Doug reminded all that we need to elect officers for the new year. Current officers agreed to do their jobs for another year except Wood, who will be moving so will not be treasurer. Much discussion was had. Finally Jen said she would be treasurer, but for just one year if Wood would help her while he can. But she said if she does that, she won't be able to be in charge of the 4th programs. More discussion was had. Finally, Jen said she would do both if she could get a co-chair for the programs. She recruited Christine Frost via text.

Wood reported that we currently have \$20,982.93 in the bank. Kevin gave him another \$300 that he owed the committee from last year plus another \$210 he made selling his product at the concert in June. Doug asked about money he had left for Wood at the town office after the concert....\$280 cash collected from concert attendees. Wood never received that money. They will go to the town office to find out what happened to it.

Fireworks were discussed. Doug suggested we ask for \$10,000 worth this year but others felt we should go with the \$15,000 again since it will be our 80th. Wood made motion to go with \$15,000 and Donna seconded. All voted in favor.

Wood would like to know what kids would like to see happen on the village green. Shawna had some ideas: a story walk (posters along the way); a greased pole w/money; chicken parade (dress like chickens); treasure hunt throughout the week leading up to the 4th; prizes buried in a sand pile. Shawna will talk w/ Webster folks as they did these things at their old home day.

Wood also asked what adults would like to see on the green. Ideas were: palm reader/psychic; photo booth. Shawna knows a psychic and will talk with her.

Doug emailed Rick with the inflatables to see if he is still interested in coming to our event.

Doug said that our vendors (local non profits) often run out of food. They don't seem to plan enough. Often there is no food for attendees to buy. Some discussion about whether we should let them set up for free this year? And should we hire for profit vendors? Doug will talk to the non profits about this.

Judy suggested we put an ad in the paper stating that we no longer have a hot dog vendor and asking if anyone is interested in taking that over. Kevin said he can sell hot dogs if no one else will. He has a steamed hotdog machine. Also, Wood would like to see someone sell ice cream. Shawna will put something on FB to try to get more interest in nonprofits selling food. If non profits don't want to do this, we may need to get others...open to local vendors first.

Pancake Breakfast. Doug is now a member of the Lions Club. They definitely plan to do the breakfast but they will need help. Doug did try to tell them that the last time when some of us tried to help, it was a disaster....very unorganized. Too many bosses.

Regarding extra activities. Donna will talk to Mariah Haley about the oxen again; Tony the train will come. Bluegrass Band will be here. Someone suggested a dog kissing booth.

Parade. Donna said that the ones who had said yes to coming last year before we cancelled said they will come this next year. She is also trying to get Smoky the Bear guy.

Beth said that she no longer wants the responsibility of the Childrens Parade.....would like someone else to take over and she will help somewhere else. Asked committee members to think about who might do it....maybe someone with kids. Alita spoke up and said she would do it.

Wood said he will check into having the steel drum band. Kearsarge Community Band will be here again.....we need to find out if they want to also be on a float again. It was a lot of work to get a truck/trailer for them. Donna will talk to them.

A vote was taken on our new slate of officers: Doug Phelps, Chairman; Donna Smith, Vice Chairman; Jen Bent, Treasurer; Beth Frost, Secretary. All voted in favor.

Jobs to be done before next meeting:

Doug - fireworks; non profits, more food to last thru parade and after

Wood: missing money

Jen: Ask kids what they would like on the green

Dedication. Need to be thinking about that. Someone suggested it be dedicated to first responders. Rene Lefebvre; police dept...Charlie Darling??? Be thinking about this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Frost, Sec'y