

4th July Committee Minutes 4/7/21

Meeting opened by Chairman, Doug Phelps, at 7:06 pm in the upstairs meeting room at the Andover Community Hub.

Members present were: Doug Phelps, Alita Phelps, Donna Smith, Beth Frost, Jane Slayton, Wood Sutton, Donna Duclos & Kevin Goodwin.

The minutes from the last meeting, 3/3/21, were looked over. Donna Smith made a motion to accept the minutes and Kevin Goodwin seconded. All voted in favor.

It was brought to our attention that we had never approved our minutes from the meetings on 5/8/20 and 8/6/20. Kevin made a motion to accept both sets of minutes and Jane seconded it. All voted to approve the May and August minutes.

The big topic, of course, was do we go ahead with our annual celebration or do we not? Doug reported that New London Hospital had recently announced that they will NOT be holding their annual hospital two-day event again this year because of Covid. They feel the risk of having so many people in close proximity, especially children, is too great. Most of the committee had also seen that announcement on FaceBook.

A lot of discussion was held with many ideas bantering back and forth. Wood feels we should go ahead with the entire event. Most others feel uncomfortable doing that even tho they hate to see it cancelled again. Some talked about having a low scale daytime event.....maybe no parade and just non profits spread out. However, most felt that this would not be successful enough to bring in much money for the vendors as the crowds of people are usually how they make money. And also, if people found out they might come and we would have the crowds we are trying to avoid anyway. Finally, Doug put it to a vote. He asked the question: Do we put on the full daytime event? There was one Yes (Wood). Everyone else felt we should NOT do it. Next Doug asked: Do we still have the fireworks display? All said Yes! Thus, we will not have the daytime event, but hopefully will have fireworks. Wood suggested we ask the fireworks people to shoot off just high ones, not ones close to the ground so that people who are watching from cars or homes can see. Doug will talk to them. Doug will also do a write-up for the Beacon (with help from Donna S & Beth).

Donna S will notify the parade people who have said they would come and Doug will notify all the vendors that the event is cancelled.

We also discussed having the free concert in June. All agreed we can do that safely so that is still a go for June 10th at 6 PM.

Wood reported that we have \$20,732 in our treasury.

No other business to discuss. We will meet again next month. Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Frost, Secretary