

Ashland 4th of July Committee
October 11th, 2017

Present-Fran Wendelboe, Deb Perdue, Katrina Randlett, Becka Morrill, Sue Harville, John Harville, Stephen Uhlman, Phyllis Reitsma, David Ruell, Kendall Hughes, Mark Liebert,

Meeting was called to order by Fran at 7:00, the pledge of allegiance was done and Roll Call was taken. Minutes –The August minutes were reviewed, Kendall made a motion to approve the minutes, Katrina 2nd and it was approved by all. The September minutes were reviewed, 2 corrections were made. Becka made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, Sue Harville 2nd and it was approved by all.

AARA – Mark Liebert from the AARA came to speak, he said he heard there were questions and he came to answer questions. Fran said there was some frustration over the parking money because people signed up to volunteer for parking with the 4th of July committee thought they were volunteering for the 4th of July committee and then later found out that the money was given to AARA. Mark explained that several boards ago there was a misfiling with a wrong tax id number and the 4th of July Committee needed somewhere to go so they were put under AARA, later insurance became an issue so the insurance was split. Fran said that we would love to have a clear relationship with AARA. Mark explained that they have a 5 member board, with 1 retiring, they do small events and they do not have staff to help with parking any longer, in 2018 the AARA wants to walk away from helping with the parking. AARA voted and due to staffing, not from anger. They are working on figuring out how they will be viable after Jan. AARA was supposed to be like friends of Park and Rec. They do movie in the park, and music in the park, financial aid for summer camp and after school care. They do have a protocol to follow if it needs to be dissolved due to lack of members in January but they are hopeful they can get the needed volunteers.

In the November meeting we will work on reviewing the budget and get serious with fireworks. A decision will need to be made about buttons. Lynne had previously suggested that buttons were given out for a donation amount rather than specifically selling them for \$2.00. Becka added that she thought that while they may not be a huge money maker they are about memories for some folks. Fran added that we will need to decide on a design and ordering of them.

Katrina mentioned that banners and the books really seem to be the bigger money maker. Becka suggested that the books may be changed to a brochure, program, or map with a schedule and given out earlier. Katrina mentioned these would be nice because they would show any new events.

Committee Heads 1 Fundraising Chair, 2. Fireworks Chair, 3. Parking Chair, 4. Chair Concessions/Field Manager 5. Marketing/Social Media/Press, 6. Parade Chair.

The Fundraising Chair will coordinate and oversee: Pancake Breakfast(lets be more involved with helping them move furniture, seat people and greet people), 50/50 proceeds, button and logo sales, bucket collections, go fund me (so that out of towners could help if they wanted to rather than just send a check) concessions and advertising. There is still some uncollected banner money. Deb asked why they were allowed to get a banner if they did not pay for it in advance. Going forward no check no banner.

The concessions were not paid promptly either. Why was there no deposit, why were they able to leave without paying. Deb asked if we knew their history do they pay late every year? We do not know this answer. This is a big job and we want everyone to think about what it entails before signing up. Fireworks Chair/Emergency Management – Kendall Hughes will be chair and John Harville will be his assistant.

Parking Chair- will manage the parking of all lots.

Chair Concessions/Field Manager: deals with field set up, placement of trash barrels, entertainment, tents and clean up; A liaison with concessions. It was mentioned that we need more trash cans especially on the back part of the field. Stephen Uhlman mentioned that the majority of the trash is sparklers and pop its.

Marketing/social media/ Press – radio, social media, all advertising avenues.

Parade Chair – Breakfast goes from 7-10. Weather determines how much people are willing to wait for the parade. We could ask people to do floats. Sue Harville suggested that local trucks should be decorated; perhaps they could be used by those who want to do a float but have no means to. Kendall, John and Sue Harville

Entertainment Chair – depending on what events are decided on the field it could be useful to break this off as a separate committee.

Treasury Update– Katrina has not heard from them yet. Based on the minutes from the Heritage meeting they still have \$1500 outstanding from 6 advertisers.

Heritage Commission – In the minutes from the Heritage Commission meeting on October 10th they took a vote that if the Fourth of July Committee chooses to transition to a town committee as approved by the Ashland Board of Selectmen, the Heritage Commission will abide by that decision and recommend that it happen by December 31, 2017. Should a fund transfer to a Board of Selectmen –controlled non – lapsing account not occur prior to receiving invoices by January 1, 2018, the Heritage Commissioners shall continue to expend from the Fourth of July account in the Heritage Fund as has been previously established. David mentioned that the money is currently safe in a non-lapsing account and the Heritage Commission just wants to be sure that it will go into to another non-lapsing account. Fran said if we were to leave the Heritage Commission it would go into a designated non-lapsing fund. She assures us that the funds are safe, but she feels that after we sent them a copy of our bylaws and they sent a draft copy back with their changes particularly that we have to live in Ashland they are injecting their feelings. It is clearer and cleaner to report to the selectmen. Katrina said she felt this was a dead horse that we keep talking about and that we need to move forward. Becka said she thought we were all set staying with the heritage commission, but after being given these changes with the rules of procedures where were originally created from the previous committee she questions that decision. The draft that we are referring to was sent to Deb this afternoon with copies of the minutes from their meeting. David said that he had not seen this draft before; they had discussed doing a draft template of the bylaws. Katrina said that she strongly disagrees with their decision that someone has to live in Ashland. While we do have someone on the board that lives in Ashland we may not always, and she as well as other may not live in Ashland but still have strong ties and are Ashland taxpayers. Fran said that she feels it means that we are peons doing their work. She understands the responsibility of being under the town and reporting to the town. Becka said that her main reason for staying was that the transfer of money would be easier. Fran said she had spoken with the town administrator, and checks are written weekly,

the selectmen need to approve the checks. Becka said that she previously felt that checks could only be approved by selectmen at a meeting which is not the case, as long as it is in the budget then checks can be signed. Becka said that as long as we are assured that the money can be non-lapsing then let's just move forward with this and not have this conversation at every meeting. Stephen said he does not see any cons with going as a stand alone under the town.

Kendall made a motion to seek to establish a stand-alone committee under the town of Ashland this was 2nd by John Harville. All in Favor – Becka Morrill, Kendall Hughes, John Harville, Sue Harville, Stephen Uhlman, Phylliss Reitsma, Fran Wendelboe, Katrina Randlett, Deb Perdue, No –None, Abstain – David Ruell.

Sue Harville said that she would like to help with committees but does not want to be the chair of any. She will make a very helpful vice chair. Katrina said she too would like to work on a committee but did not want to be a chair.

Other Business –

Kendall gave a 150 Committee update – they will have all fundraising done by 6/1 so as not to interfere with 4th of July fundraising. The new telephone pole signs will go up in roughly January.

Next meeting 11/8/17 – 7:00 Sherrill Hall