

Ashland 4th of July Committee
minutes
July 11, 2018

Present –Fran Wendleboe, Katrina Randlett, Deb Perdue, Sue Harville, John Harville, David Ruell, Kendall Hughes, Harold Lamos, Caroline Gosse, & Kathleen DeWolfe.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35, the pledge of allegiance was done and Roll Call was taken.

Minutes –The June 13th minutes were reviewed, Caroline made a motion to approve the minutes, Harold 2nd and it was approved by all.

Treasury Report –

Katrina just received the bank statement from Linda at the town hall today and is not prepared to present numbers for this meeting, a full detailed financial accounting will be presented at the August meeting. Fran said we made over budget on most things. The pancake breakfast we served just shy of 500 guests. Parking was over budget, ads and banners were over budget, the bottom line should exceed our expectations. Buttons and bracelets sold well, the t-shirts did not sell well.

Old Business-

This is a meeting to recap the events of the 3rd and 4th of July, members sat and discussed what we thought went well, what didn't go so well, and ideas for next year. Carolyn mentioned she thought things went well but was told that the Mary Ruell Award winners didn't realize they could be in the parade, perhaps they were told about it too early in the year to remember. Caroline asked if it would be ok with the committee if they were invited to ride in the 150th parade, the consensus was yes. Harold said he was told by many that the games were enjoyed, people liked it as a community that they were free games. He would like to volunteer to do the games next year. Kendall said he was told by the church that they were very happy with how it went and would like to come back next year. They would like to be able to charge less next year and would also like some picnic tables and maybe a tent. The trash left from Chesleys was unacceptable. Pictures of the leftover dough and trash were passed around. They were asked to use the dumpster that was provided and the trash from them was worse than any trash left on the field. The DJ sound system could be heard all over the field. Larry's sound system could not be heard. There was a lot of dancing near the bandstand from the DJ's music. The basketball court, we had to keep asking people to stop playing basketball during the performance. The suggestion was made to have the bandstand be the focal point next year with the DJ on that as it projected throughout the field better, but it needs to be decorated with bunting and such. The apple pie contest seemed to go well. The suggestion was made to have other flavors of pie, also the winners need to be announced better next year. A dry erase board near the judging area would work well for this. It was also recommended that the events start later next year, it was a long time to be on the field when it was hot, and a lot of people were either at work or on their way home when events started. The radio station was a hit among committee members, and it was suggested to add them as a line item in the budget next year. 2 volunteers, 1 parade person, and 1 event official had heat related issues. Improvements - Lights are needed at the tent area for when it gets dark. Dots had someone turn their hose on and leave it on and running all night long. The food vendor arrived 1 day early on park and rec,

which made it difficult for Monday at Park and Rec, they also set up in the wrong spot and refused to move. They also brought different vendors than had been discussed. The petty cash needs to be bumped up to more 10's and 5's. Bigger parking signs are needed stating that parking is ahead. Some people paid \$10 to park near Mobile when they could have parked in our lots closer for \$5. Pets – we stressed no pets, but there were several people that were spoken to about having pets on the field, especially a person who brought their ferret and was upset when he was asked to leave with it. The pancake breakfast needs an actual cash box, the bag didn't really work. Parade – better updated info on the website and on Facebook. We also need the Facebook log in information. It was suggested that we encourage preregistration for the parade, so that we have contact information to invite for the following year. A horse trailer got to the parade very early in the morning and did not move to the area the horses are supposed to be in which caused a problem with lining up the floats. Businesses should be allowed to be eligible to win even if there are committee members that belong to that business or organization. It was also suggested that there should be more money in prizes next year. The fire engine horns were not blown, which some like and other complained about. MVSB handed out cowbells which were a big hit, perhaps we look into the cost of these for next year if they do not intend to do them next year. Expand the kid's games and find more cornhole boards to be used. The face painting needed to start later in the day, and it needs to be by price not just by donation. She painted beautiful arm bands which people easily would have paid \$5 for if they were asked. More signage would be helpful – Sign for kid's games, bathrooms, and best viewing in back. We learned the 50/50 needs to use Alex's flag at the table. It would be helpful if the vendors would dim their lights during the fireworks. More volunteers are needed for set up and break down, we also need to find a way to get volunteers to show up. Some who volunteered didn't show up because of the heat. Walkie talkies would be helpful, especially for the parade, Kathleen has 2 that she is willing to donate. Add a line item for public relations to the budget. The ad books were a hit but we had too many of them printed. 5000 is way too many, next year we need to stick to around 2500. There were no supplies at the school for the volunteers to use to clean the field. They need rakes, and shovels, trash bags and gloves. Let's compare the 2 fireworks companies and see which ones are better.

New Business -

The 150 celebration is coming up, Jane is also wondering if someone will work on banners on the tennis courts for them. Kathleen would like someone to go to the selectmen's meeting to present how it went to the board.

We have items left to sell. The buttons and bracelets will be sold for \$1 for the 150th celebration and shirts will be sold for \$10. Deb and Sue will sell during the street fair, Katrina will sell at Alumni Day and Deb will help as she can that day. We need volunteers to sell during the field events and fireworks on the 28th.

Meeting was adjourned.