

Old Home Day Minutes - Wrap-up 2019

DATE: 27-Oct-2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 3:00 pm

Committee Members Present: Haley Bush Co-Chair, Jim Peck Co-Chair, Jay Deroche, Julian Kiszka, Barbara Kiszka, John Blinn, Derek Travers (PFD Rep)

Committee Members Absent: Audrey Peck, Francine Hart, Christina Cruz, Bob Carolan, Tracy Fuller, Jon Gifford, Laurie Milette, Michelle Lampron and Ella Lampron.

Also present: Scott Bradstreet (PFD), Tammy Bergeron, Beth Tilton, Connor MacMillan (junior member)

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of 22-Jun-2019 by Barbara, 2nd by Derek. Motion passed 6-0-3.

Handouts from Jim Peck: Old Home Day Financials 2019 for Town Report, Town of Plaistow – Old Home Committee By-Laws

Public Comment: Barbara Kiszka noted this was the best Old Home Day in her memory. Derek Travers noted the town green activities were great, but the parade was lacking in fire trucks and had large gaps. People missed the Steel Drum band.

New members: Beth Tilton accepted as a new member of the OHD committee. Tammy Bergeron is returning.

Resigning members: Laurie Milette, Bob Carolan, Christina Cruz

Decisions / Motions:

1. **Elect officers for 2020:** Jim Peck motions to elect Haley Bush as Chair, Tammy Bergeron as Vice Chair, and Barbara Kiszka as Recording Secretary. Derek Travers seconds the motion. Carries: 9-0-0.
2. **Michelle Lampron** will continue managing the raffle
3. **OHD Date next year:** 20-Jun-2020, parade time tentatively 3pm (one hour later than usual).
4. **Next meeting:** January 2020, but get parade coordinator started sooner if possible.
5. **Raffle beneficiary:** Jay DeRoche motions for Holy Angels Food Pantry to be the beneficiary of the raffle. Tammy Bergeron 2nds. After discussion that we do not know the budget, Jay and Tammy withdraw the motion.
6. **Vendors:** general agreement to reduce the number of vendors and raise the price from \$30 to \$60 or more for for-profit vendors. To do: establish exact price and way to encourage locally made products vs big corporations and imported products. Jim Peck will handle vendor accounting and financials. We will post a request for a vendor coordinator volunteer.

Action items:

1. **Francine Hart** will investigate setting up a town Enterprise fund for Old Home Day fundraising so that it can be more self-sufficient.

2. **Jay DeRochewill** investigate setting aside a picnic area where people can eat food from the Lions, Cub Scouts, and other food vendors.
3. **Jay DeRochewill** provide information to **Tammy Bergeron** on establishing a beer garden based loosely on the successful Kingston beer garden
4. **Jay DeRochewill** ask the Lions if they will pick up the parade coordination again.
5. **Haley** send the Vendor coordinator responsibilities to **Barbara**
6. **Barbara** will add a Facebook post asking for a Vendor coordinator volunteer
7. **Tammy** create list of possible restrictions to limit the number of vendors?
8. **Everyone** –
 - a. send pictures of OHD to **Jim Peck** for the Town Report. Let Jim know by email if you would like to see a copy of the report before it is sent to the town.
 - b. Send Theme ideas for 2020 to **Haley** by January

Discussion:

1. Wrap-up 2019

- a. See public comment
- b. Derek:
 - Frustrated that the fire truck rides were moved further away from the town green for safety. Would like better advertising to attendees that the rides are available. By the time the rides became popular at noon, it was time to close shop and head to the parade.
 - Lacking in fire engines due to conflict with another Mass Association for Preservation of Fire Apparatus (MAPFA) event. Trying to establish dates for next year to avoid conflict.
 - DeLorean was great, but go Back to Basics next year
 - Tie parade to the fireworks to avoid a 4-hour gap in activities
 1. Fire dept gets ready for fireworks starting at 4pm
 2. Tell vendors to stay until 4pm. Tammy notes this did not work the last time they tried it a few years ago
 3. Fire Dept can adjust to a 3pm parade start time
 4. Notes the Kingston beer tent was very successful selling \$30K of product. Participants paid \$25 each. Lots of breweries participating – Kona from Hawaii, microbreweries and larger brewers
- c. Haley – push parade to one hour later, 3pm, to keep vendors on the green longer.
- d. Jay –
 - Road race went well, but there were fewer runners. They had \$450 in cash prizes. Recommend scaling back / no cash prizes next year.
 - How about a place for people to eat / picnic area?
 - People missed the steel drum band, though they are pricey
 - Timberlane or cover band after the parade in Gazebo? Haley and Tammy noted things like having a band and/or contests did not draw much of a crowd after the parade when the vendors were busy packing up, even though they had announcements that the activities were continuing.
 - Try to keep things going until the ham & bean supper at the church at 4pm

e. Jim –

- Need a parade coordinator early on. Jay will follow-up with the Lions to see if they may pick it up
- Vendors would love to go to 3pm. Ask if they can stay until 4? Should limit the number of vendors of the same kind, e.g. facepainting and ice cream. Jim won't be handling vendors next year, need to find someone else.
- A lot of people (>100) went to Gifford's after the parade. They enjoyed corn hole, petting zoo, pony rides, horse shoes
- Previous years – used Jail cell, throw people in jail to be bailed out, or use the stocks if we still have them
- Dunk tank was popular. Paid for by Souvenir Program proceeds. Money raised went to the Boy Scouts

f. Haley –

- DeLorean was awesome, successful. The show was short and not worth the extra money. However having the car on display for pictures all day was.
- Historical Society raised \$11,000 over 2 years. This year the \$5,300 paid for the DeLorean, dunk tank, and Irish step dancers.
- There was a miscommunication on the trackless train, so the invoice was not submitted, and they did not appear. Some people missed the train while others were fine with the train from the Rock Church.
- Too many vendors, 90. Have fewer vendors next year – 70? Restrict how many of the same kind. Leave room for the pony rides and picnic area. Notes Kingston charges \$200 per table while we only charge \$30. Non-profits do not pay.

2. **Theme 2020**–the Facebook poll last year worked well. Suggestions for next year:

- a. Back to Basics (Derek)
- b. Friendly Neighbors (Barbara)
- c. Decades - 70s, 80s, Gatsby (Tammy)
- d. Library 20th anniversary (Jim)
- e. Environment / Nature (Julian)

3. **Vendors** – 90 vendors raised roughly \$2,500 for the Historical Society. This is the only town funding for the Society. Next year raise fees and limit the number of vendors.

4. **Raffle** – Jay reports \$1,788 was raised for Holy Angels. Jim Peck wrote the check after getting the funds from Greg Colby, who received the funds from Michelle. Jim Peck requests that raffle money go to defray the costs of OHD for 2020.

5. **Parade** – see Wrap-up above for comments on this year. **Jay** will talk to the Lions about next year. Haley will coordinate the parade in a pinch. Tracy from the Y is willing to coordinate at the intersection again.

6. **Souvenir Program** – **Jim** reports that the program raised \$5,300, however it was a lot of work, which he enjoyed, however he does not want to do it again.

7. **Budget & Funding** – see Handout from **Jim**.

- a. Total OHD Expenses (including the \$6,000 encumbered from last year for fireworks) were \$22,013.22, just under the \$22,500 budget.
 - b. Expect a request to reduce the budget by 5% next year.
 - c. Consider finding sponsors, like the [NY Life insurance company which sponsored the Haverhill River Ruckus fireworks.](#)
8. **Town Report – Jim** is working on it. He will include the budget page he handed out. Looking for additional input from the team via email.

Next Meeting: January 2020, exact date and time TBD

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Kiszka, Recording Secretary