

Meeting opened at 5:42pm

Present: Mary Thibeault, Kathy Bagley, Martin Walsh, Harry Lichtenbaum, Art Hutchinson, Melissa Josefiak, Chris Traczyk

Public Comment:

No public comment.

The updated budget document was presented to the group with explanation of the increases received from the town, both as funds “unfrozen” from this fiscal year as well as funding provided in the budget for next fiscal year. Along with the \$10,000 budgeted from the council initially, an additional \$15,000 was appropriated to the Celebration Committee in the hopes that the we would be able to have a fireworks display (which had been abandoned as a committee event due to the high cost).

Fireworks:

Kathy Bagley stated she had a meeting this afternoon to discuss the possibility of fireworks and what location would be best...Cove vs. Mill Woods Park. The choice was Cove Park, but the biggest obstacle will be the coast Guard permit process (due to the navigable waters of the cove) and timing required for this process. Due to the potential for a timing problem it was proposed to move the fireworks to September on the parade weekend. Martin reminded the committee that the band has a competition the evening of the 26th, so that wouldn't be the best date. The day of the cornfest was suggested, moving the showmobile after the cornfest for the band concert. Art did not feel that events should be piggybacked, that people will choose one or the other event and not stay for both. The weekend of the carnival was suggested, but with all the equipment, there would be limited viewing area and the safety zone would be a problem. The same issues may occur the weekend of the craft fair. The committee chose to pursue the following dates in the following order of preference:

1. August 22, 2009 – Saturday
2. August 29, 2009 – Saturday
3. September 25, 2009 – Friday

Harry will check the band's availability for these dates.

Chris Traczyk made a motion to accept the minutes of 4/23/2009, seconded by Harry Lichtenbaum. Passed.

Martin made a motion to have the committee reinstate a fireworks display for either August 22, 29 or September 25 with a pre fireworks concert if possible due to the additional funding provided by the Town Council. Seconded by Chris Traczyk. Discussion followed that initially the fireworks were voted down due to lack of funding, and whether there were any other reasons that the committee may not want them. There was a thank you to Martin Walsh and the rest of the Town Council for making the funding available for the fireworks show. Motion passed unanimously.

Geraldine Munroe wondered if the casino Indian tribes might be contacted to see if they'd like to sponsor the show.

Martin Walsh mentioned that the past mayors of Wethersfield should have a float. A group needs to be recruited to make this happen.

Chris Traczyk made a motion to accept the preliminary budget as written with adjustments to be made as accurate costs become available and budgets get tighter. Second by Martin. Passed unanimously.

Kathy Bagley stated that the reception being planned for after the parade still needs volunteers to plan it. Geraldine Munroe volunteered to assist Mary T. and Natalie Morrison from the Parks & Recreation Department with this event.

Chris Traczyk volunteered to coordinate volunteers for all events. There was the suggestion that there could be a volunteer recruitment table at the Farmer's Market.

The events flyer put together by Mary T. was looked at, but thought that a tri-fold format with a mailing area might better suit the needs of the committee and tourism groups so it could be mailed or put in an envelope.

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:49pm by Harry Lichtenbaum, second by Chris Traczyk, passed unanimously.