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Minutes
Memorial Day Committee
Thursday October 13, 2016-7:00pm
Rt. 67 Diner

Members Present: Al Yagovane, Ron Callanan, Beverly Kennedy, John Stelma, Hargurpreet Singh, Alex Danka

Members absent: none

Meeting was called to order at 7:13pm

Public Comment: none

Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2016 meeting-Approved 5-0-1. One abstention (Alex Danka)

New Business: Alex Danka mentioned the possibility of having officials in the reviewing stand shuttled to the start of the parade so that they can be in the parade. Ron Callahan mentioned the need for the parade to step off on time. It was proposed that the speeches start at 10:30 so that the parade would be able to step off at the set time of 11:00 as posted.

The issue of insufficient garbage containers and port a potties at the start of the parade was also mentioned as a concern during the 2016 parade.

It was also suggested that a covering be put on the reviewing stand to protect the officials on the reviewing stand from the direct sun.

Discussion was also made on the possibility of having floats in the parade with trophies. An additional idea of having a banner contest was also suggested with the submitting organizations marching in the parade with the banners.

Al Yagovane mentioned that the purpose of Memorial Day was to honor those in the service who did not come home. The parades were started in 1868 for this purpose.

Election of officers for the 2016-2017 year were held with the following results:

Alex Danka - Chairman
John Stelma-Secretary
Ron Callanan-Treasurer

Motion was made by Ron Callanan to accept the slate as proposed and was seconded by Beverly Kennedy.

Band contracts and the need to have them out soon was discussed. Name of the new chairperson and phone number is to be included in next year's contracts.

The future location of Memorial Day Committee meeting was brought up and approved to change the site from the present Rt. 67 diner to the Town Hall beginning with the next meeting to become more accessible to the public. The meeting date would remain on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 and would be held in the Flaherty room in Town Hall. It was also suggested that each person bring an additional guest to increase the number of people on the committee in the hope of formulating new ideas as well as have additional help in the planning of the parade on the day of the parade as well.

It was also proposed to invite the Fire Chief or representative of Citizens Fire (Al Rochelle), head of Public Works (Tony DePrimo), Paul Satkowski (to represent the Seymour Police) to get their feedback on issues that would concern them regarding the Memorial Day event.

It was also proposed to put flyers in public buildings as well as an announcement on the town website in order to generate public interest in helping or attending the coming meetings and fielding ideas of likes and dislikes concerning the parade. Mention was also made to involve other town committees in our meetings as well as other groups in town.

Ideas to attract more people to attend the parade were also mentioned such as tanks, flyovers, and floats.

Responsibility of the Secretary was also mentioned and the requirement that minutes be submitted within seven days of the meeting. Agenda for the following meeting is to be submitted one week before.

Other ideas discussed for the 2017 parade included a possible change in the parade route, having sponsors for the floats in the parade to offset the expenses of the float, the possibility of having a picnic at French Memorial park at the conclusion of the parade with possible additional activities in conjunction with the picnic.

Floats should be promoted early (by Dec.31, 2016). Ron to send information on the floats to members and to invite the Board of Selectmen.

Donation letters (mass mailing) were discussed. Last years cost for the mailings were approximately \$2100 with a return of \$4000. Possible date change for the mailings were discussed to after the holiday season. Best time to send them out was determined to be in March. Alex Danko also proposed that we bring our own envelopes and labels and send the letters out. It was also discussed to send letters out only to those who have sent in a donation in the past. It was also suggested that we sent out letters to businesses in town.

Additional fundraising ideas were also suggested including a 50's dance and ziti dinner possibly at the Land Trust building, an Easter Breakfast or Easter event, car wash which was tried previously.

It was suggested to forward to the press information on our meetings and new additions to the parade and the members of the board.

Parade inventory was discussed which is currently housed at Ron Callanan's house and could be transferred to another site and put all in one area. The need for an inventory was discussed and the condition each of the items are in. Alex will meet with the Community Center to see what is available for storage at that site.

Discussion of the student essay and student poster contests will be discussed at the next meeting.

Guest speakers for the 2017 parade would possibly be one from the military and one from the private sector.

Bank Account for the Memorial Day Committee will add Alex Danka to the account as the chairman of the committee. Letter will be needed to be sent to the bank with the names of the 3 people on the account. Possibility of changing the account to another bank was also discussed.

Ron to read articles on what other committees do for their respective Memorial Day Parades.

Next meeting will also discuss additional ideas for what we want to do with the parade.

Old Business- Committee thanked Al Yagovane for all of his years of service to the Memorial Day Parade.

Announcements-next meeting will be Nov. 10th, 2016 at the Flaherty room in the Seymour Town Hall.

Public Comment-none

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

John Stelma

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Alex Danka John can you call me 203-464-4345 Sent from my iPod