

Susan Debarber

From: john stelma <ctbuckeyejohn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 6:29 PM
To: bettyboo26@aol.com; Rcallanan1; Preet Singh; Alex Danka; Susan Debarber; John Stelma
Subject: Memorial Day Committee Minutes-Nov. 10,2016

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes
Memorial Day Committee
Thursday November 10, 2016-7:00 pm
Flaherty Room-Seymour Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

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

Members Absent: none

Other Attendees: Tom Eighmie, Paul Chawla

Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2016 meeting-motion by Preet Singh, seconded by Ron Callanan. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment/Open Forum: Discussion was made to work out a possible date change and parade route change for the Memorial Day Parade in order to stimulate increased attendance at the event. Approximate attendance currently is at approximately 2000 people. Current parade route is 7/10 mile and the thought was to have the parade route of the same approximate length but in a neighborhood environment and to change the parade from a Sunday to a Monday. Possible locations discussed included the same parade route but to reverse the beginning and ending with the parade starting at the bridge at 8:30, a service at French Memorial Park at 10:30am. Other possible routes included the Industrial Park (AKA) the Commerce and Technology Center on Silvermine Road, and a route from the High School to Bungay School. Additional starting points in the High School area included the back side of the Middle School to Bungay School. Discussion on the changes of route and day also centered on possible issues such as the ability to keep the bands that we usually have in the parade if we change the date. If the competition from other communities (Naugatuck, Derby-Shelton) would affect other aspects of the parade as well-such as attendance. Also the ability to have a staging area for the shuttle buses to get participants from the end of the parade to the beginning of the parade. Ron will contact the bands that we usually have to get feedback of the feasibility of continuing to have them in the parade with the date change.

The date change was also discussed to start in 2018 instead of 2017 to give plenty of notice to all that are involved with the parade. Also suggested was to move to a neighborhood setting next year and have the date change the following year. The theme of the parade was also discussed with the possibility of running the parade route through a residential area to have a neighborhood "feel". Motion was made to have the parade go through a neighborhood rather than the downtown for next year after more research is done on the idea.

Alex mentioned looking into various grants or enlisting help from other town organizations. Among those mentioned was the Culture and Arts grant. He suggested that we attend their meeting which will be held on Nov. 17 at 6:30 at Town Hall.

Organizations that have expressed an interest with helping the parade included the Congregational Church, Culture and Arts, Founders Day, and the Sikhs who will provide ice cream once again. Additional activities discussed to coincide with the parade would be a picnic and fireworks, a trophy for the best decorated house. Alex is looking into restoring the flyovers prior to the parade-the air force does still do the flyovers but the army does not.

It was suggested that Fred Stanek be the Master of Ceremonies and suggestions are needed for the guest speaker.

In regards to the idea for floats in the parade the need for a list of prospective groups who want to be involved in that part of the parade was discussed as well as ideas for the floats and rules for the judging of the floats. Motion was made by Preet and seconded by John to give trophies to the best floats. Also mentioned was to have the information on the floats in Voices.

It was suggested that we have press releases for any of the items that we have discussed-judging, meeting dates, parade route changes, date of the parade to get the information to the general public. The item of fundraising was also brought up. It was suggested that we send out letters in March to avoid the Christmas season and to have the responses sent to a P.O. Box rather than to the bank as we have done in the past so that we can have a copy of the checks received on file for us to send a thank you to the contributors. Motion was made by Preet and seconded by Bev to get a P.O. Box. Suggestions for additional involvement by groups was discussed with suggestions of the following: contacting schools for bands, cheerleaders, Dance groups, Boys and Girls Clubs, groups that are in the Christmas Parade (use of their database) Pop Warner, baseball teams, Traditions, and other sports such as the volleyball team. Also mentioned was having the Seymour High School Photography Club be our photographers for the parade. The discussion also included bringing dogs as long as they were on leashes.

Additional ideas for activities were to have a competition between the Town Fire Companies with a trophy that is passed to the winner at the conclusion of the parade. It may also be opened to other Fire Companies who express an interest as well. This may be for best decorated, best in show, or similar awards.

Additional ideas were to include farm equipment and tractors in the parade, decorated lawn mowers, have a night parade with floats lit up. Also the possibility of having the poster contest formerly put in store windows downtown to be displayed on floats instead or displayed at town hall. For the 6th of May ideas were discussed to have bands in the downtown parking lot and the posters on display. Ideas for the poster contest included a theme about Volunteers of the year and Memorial Day. Unresolved issues included people riding or using machinery in the parade from an insurance aspect as well as the minimum age that the participants would have to be.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45. Motion by Bev and seconded by Preet.

Respectfully Submitted

John Stelma