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Seymour Parade Committee Minutes from February 13, 2020 meeting

Members Present: Alex Danka, Fred Stanek, Lucy McConologue, Beverly Kennedy (left 7:00), Preet Singh, John Stelma, Stephanie Danka, Harvey Catlin, Dan Staffieri
Non-Members Present: Judy Simpson, Priscilla Altorelli

Prior to the meeting solicitations for contributions for the 2020 Memorial Parade were assembled and prepared for mailing

Meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm

Reading of the minutes was tabled until the March monthly meeting

Treasurers Report-Both the Christmas Parade report as well as the Memorial Day Parade report were reported as unchanged from the previous month.

Open Forum/Discussion-Revised mission statement was discussed as there was a change in some of the original content from the copy that was distributed at the previous monthly meeting.

Lucy announced a name of a possible Grand Marshall for the 2020 Memorial Day Parade as Lauren Cust who is a Seymour resident, a member of Post 10, and a veteran who served in the Middle East. It was discussed by the committee the need to obtain a resume from her. It was also decided to name her as the Grand Marshall with her name to be unveiled at the upcoming Veterans Concert to be held in Seymour on April 25. The Vets Concert will start at 5 pm on April 25 at the Seymour Middle School.

Dan Staffieri mentioned the possibility that the Seymour Parade Committee would be able to set up a table at the event to collect donations for the parade.

Alex Danka announced that we would be working to coordinate more than one event on the same day in December. It was proposed that the Christmas Parade, First Saturday events, and possibly the Land Trust Fireworks be held on the first Saturday in December with the parade being held in the late afternoon of that day followed by music leading to the first Saturday events. Dan Staffieri offered the Connecticut Brass Band for the First Saturday event. It was discussed whether or not that would duplicate the carolers and American Legion Band that are already scheduled to perform on that evening. Logistics for the timing of the events were also discussed with the parade being moved to the afternoon beginning at 3 and ending by 4 with a one hour break to allow the Culture and Arts Committee to set up for their event and have music in the interim on Columbus Street.

Discussion was then focused on the Memorial Day Parade beginning with the ceremony at the reviewing stand being during the parade rather than prior to the parade. Dan would discuss this item with Beverly Kennedy. The change would incorporate having the Hurricanes march at the beginning of the parade to the downtown area along with the cars carrying the veterans participating in the parade. The ceremony would take place while the rest of the parade marched from French Memorial Park to join those at the ceremony at the reviewing stand. It was decided to further add this idea to the agenda for the March meeting.

Additional items mentioned regarding the Memorial Day Parade including giving the list of dignitaries participating in the parade to Beverly Kennedy which are to include legislators, the Selectmen and First Selectmen, as well as the Superintendent of Schools. and having John Stelma compose a letter to the Town of Seymour to request the annual donation from the town for the parade.

Discussion also took place regarding the Essay Contest. In a motion by Harvey Catlin and seconded by Fred Stanek, it was agreed that the Essay Contest would take place again this year with some minor changes to the amount of winners and prizes to be given. First place winners (one from each school) will be awarded a \$50 check as well as a plaque. The second place essays from each school, as proposed by Preet Singh and seconded by Harvey Catlin, will receive a \$25 check. It was proposed by Harvey Catlin and seconded by Stephanie Danka that the remaining participants will be given red, white, and blue ribbons as they were well received at the previous parades. The ribbons will be given to the Principals of each school after the parade.

The Sikh community will once again generously provide ice cream along the parade route for the 2020 Memorial Day Parade.

Fred Stanek will once again be the Master of Ceremonies. He will also look into suggestions that Harvey has for the speaker for the parade.

John will check into and contact Patti Rinkumas to sing at the beginning of the parade and Pastor Bosworth to give the invocation.

The agenda for the next meeting will include finalizing the reviewing stand invitees. These were to also include the essay winners and the Grand Marshall and speaker for the parade. There was also a change to an item of protocol regarding the wreaths which will be left at the reviewing stand as they come to the point of the parade at Bank and Main rather than taking them to the end of the parade as was done last year.

Items reviewed regarding the Christmas Parade and First Night Event included the buying of ads on Facebook instead of newspapers due to the cost. The mention of local ads was mentioned. Lucy mentioned the inclusion of the event in the flyer distributed by the town in the quarterly Oct., Nov., Dec. edition. The list of events for the day can also be included in the flyer. She also mentioned that any events for June, July would need to be submitted by April 1st. The official name of the event would be needed before May 1st for advertising purposes.

It was also mentioned that we need to report to the Board of Selectmen on the issue of a rain date as the previous Christmas Parades had rain dates and the First Saturday event does not have a rain date.

There was also mentioned the possible change in the parade route with the parade starting at Day Street and end at Town Hall or disband at the Fire Station. As Santa Claus arrives at the train station it was suggested that Mrs. Claus be at the end of the parade at meet Santa Claus at the train station and announce the arrival to the crowd. It was suggested that there be a representative from the police department at our next meeting to discuss safety issues with this plan as sunset is at 4:23 on that date,

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next meeting will be held March 12, 2020 in the Flaherty Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Stelma