

MINUTES

Harvard 4th of July Committee

Date | time 1/28/2018 2:00 PM | Harvard General Store, Harvard, MA *Meeting called to order by* Anne Hentz at 2 pm

In Attendance

Anne Hentz, Shannon Kinayman, Pat Jennings, Christopher Chalifoux, Joe Schmit, Lindsay Burke, Sarah Von Conta

Absent: Sherry Graham, Patricia Mahoney, Vanessa Perini

Approval of Minutes and Old Business

This was the first meeting of our committee this year.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was written by Anne Hentz. Agenda was approved by Shannon Kinayman and seconded by Sarah von Conta.

Welcome New Members

Christopher Chalifoux and Lindsay Burke were in attendance. We also welcomed Sarah Von Conta back to the committee after a hiatus.

Open committee positions

After introducing all of the members to each other, open positions were discussed. Open positions included parade coordinator, field events coordinator, and t-shirt sales coordinator. Christopher Chalifoux stepped up to take on the role of parade coordinator and Lindsay Burke that of field events coordinator. Patricia Mahoney, who expressed interest in being a member of the committee but could not attend the meeting, was discussed as a possible t-shirt coordinator and Anne Hentz was to follow up with her. Likewise, Anne was going to follow up with Vanessa Perini, also in absentia, who expressed interest in the committee, specifically in helping with marketing.

Overview of plans

Before our meeting began we were visited by David Durrant who voiced his concerns about how the committee is formed and where the fireworks take place. He felt that the committee should go back to the “old ways” which was to welcome new neighbors by enlisting their help as junior co-chair to the committee. After one year of service, the junior co-chair moves into the senior co-chair position and is then tasked with enlisting another new comer. The committee expressed our concern that the festivities—both fireworks and field events/parade—have grown too large to continue with that model. Mr. Durrant then suggested we move fireworks back to the Town Beach or to change fireworks to a laser light show. The committee then explained that due to environmental damage fireworks can do to the Pond and that the number of participants has grown to such that the Pond was an unsafe venue, the 4th of July events were forced to move. The idea of a laser show was duly noted.

Time was then spent briefly discussing parking. Numbers from last year were reported as being somewhere between 6,000 to 10,000 attendees, however, parking sales did not reflect that number. This means many attendees

“snuck in” either walking to Fruitlands or parking illegally along the road--and jumping fences and stone walls. We discussed the need to increase prices, put up snow fencing and implementing presale tickets. We also discussed increased police presence but tabled that discussion to continue with Chief Denmark at a later date.

Finally, it was understood that Fruitlands Museum was to advertise/offer a discount to Trustees members. It was unanimously agreed that this would increase numbers and that Fruitlands needed to be advised against doing so. Again, as a Fruitlands meeting was set up, we tabled this discussion to continue with Fruitlands staff.

2018 Theme

Pat Jennings suggested that since it is the Centennial of the Armistice, and that Harvard will be preserving the memorial on the common, we should make the Centennial our theme. All were in favor of pursuing this idea.

New business

- Plans to meet with HPD about crowd control
- Plans to meet with Fruitlands about use of space

Next meeting

The next meetings of the 4th of July committee will be held back-to-back on February 8th. The first is to be held at 10 am on February 8th at the Harvard Police Department, followed by a meeting with Fruitlands Musuem staff at 11 am at Fruitlands Museum, followed then at 12 pm at the Harvard General Store for a general meeting.