

Bristol Community Events Committee

September 9, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present: Claire Moorhead, Lucille Keegan, Hilda Bruno, Christina Goodwin, Paula McKinley, Ray Courchaine, Steve Coffil, Les Dion

Guest: Mary Gebhart, Bruce Dorner (EDC)

Secretary's Report: The August 12, 2020 Secretary's Reports was reviewed. ***Lucille Keegan moved to accept the report. Hilda Bruno second and the motion passed.***

Fall Activities

Scarecrow Contest: Lucille has prepared posters and entry forms for the scarecrow contest. We have them here to distribute. Steve and Paula said that they would be happy to help distributing these. Lucille will coordinate with them. They will also be available at the Town Office, Library and TTCC. Entry forms should be submitted by 9/26 and voting will take place the week of 10/5. There will be Commercial & Residential entries. Entries can be on their own property or in the Central Square area. Claire will email the poster and registration form to the Library. Kim said she would be a judge and we volunteered Sharyn.

Library & Walker Farm Reading Program: Paula informed us on the collaboration between the Library and Walker Farm. Children will receive a pumpkin punch card and for each book they read they will get one punch. If they read 15 books they can take their card to Walker Farm and receive a free pumpkin. This will run from September – Halloween and punch cards will be available at the Library. This will get posted on the website and FB.

Halloween: We discussed the idea of a haunted walk on Kelley Park. Les said she shared the idea of this type of activity with the Select Board and they were in favor of it. The Mason's may be interested in collaborating with us on this and the TTCC Teen Council may help as well. Kelley Park would allow for an entrance and exit to keep foot traffic from passing each other. Les will follow up with the Mason's to see if they want to do this with us. Claire suggested we do a 'Trunk or Treat' in conjunction with this. Les will check with the SAU to see if we may be able to use the NMMS parking lot that night and we may want to use North Main Street as well. Claire said that when Woodstock did this they offered a prize to the most decorated trunk or treat car.

The Halloween hours and date are ultimately decided by the Select Board but they have been in favor of outdoor events so we will probably be all set to go. Les will bring it up at the next meeting. We will probably want to come up with some type of guidelines for handing out candy. We will need to check with the PD about the plan as well. This type of event will allow the kids to go trick or treating without going door to door if they want. Christina will check with the Fire Department to see what they will be doing that night. It was suggested that we do a map of the activity with potential parking spots for people to park and the start and finish line for the Haunted Walk.

We discussed the 'Witches Dance' and what will work for them. Christina will check with them to see if they need a hard surface to dance on. If they do we can have them under the pavilion and if they don't they could be in the middle of the park. If more room is needed for Trunk or Treaters we could put some cars on the perimeter road. In the event of inclement weather we could postpone to Sunday night with the same 5-7:30 pm hours. We can play Halloween music out of the TTCC tower. It was suggested to see if downtown businesses would like to be listed on the map. We could send them an email to see if they would like to be listed.

Claire said that we will probably want to get a Fall brochure out with what events will be happening. She will start working on this. The Committee will need to reach out to their contacts to see what events are happening.

Winter Activities/Suggestions from Economic Development: Bruce Dorner said that the Economic Development Committee formed an ad hoc committee to look at the upcoming climate for the business community with all they have faced this year and what can be done to help them. They have put together a survey to send out. Bruch will send it to Les to be shared with the committee. He said they are trying to see if the businesses have an interest in taking on an active role. Some ideas that have come up include outside winter dining with patio heaters or firepits; a Winter Farmer's Market and a potential tent that businesses could book to offer outdoor meals.

Lucille suggested we could do a special shopping day around Christmas and make it a day long event with music, special shopping opportunities and maybe an ice sculpture demo. It was suggested that the businesses might want to do coupons for that day to encourage shopping local.

We also discussed the idea of having a skating rink at Kelley Park. Donna Nashawaty told Lucille about the one in New London that they have that sounds much simpler than what we tried to do. Christina will reach out to her to get more information as this has been an item of interest for a long time. Potential suggestions were on the tball field at Kelley Park or at Wells Field with Kelley being the first choice.

Tree Lighting: The date for the Tree Lighting would be 11/27. We would have to do things a bit differently and there would be no sitting on Santa's lap. We also need to find a tree.

Summer Review: The concerts were very well attended this year with our lowest being 60 people on the night that was rescheduled. We have 270 for Annie & the Orphans. We discussed getting info out early next year about restaurants doing concert night specials. If the restaurants are not interested we discussed having non-profits sign up for a night to do a cook-out. We also discussed offering the non-profits or having this committee do a 50/50 at each concert. Claire reported that we have had to throw away most of the concert banners due to wear and tear. She has priced the yard signs and we can get 24/36 signs for \$26 each. It was agreed to go this route and buy 12.

The Walk-In Movies were a great idea. We were very late getting the first one finalized so didn't get the word out well but the second one was much better attended. This would be great to add into the events for next summer even if we just start with one in July and one in August. Claire will get some pricing and info from the company. Claire asked that we start to think about what bands we want to bring back as she can start contacting them now.

Steve suggested doing an all-day street party at the foot of the lake on the 4th of July that culminates in the fireworks show. Christina said that the biggest issue might be parking. This would be worth some more discussion.

Claire asked that we gather info on any upcoming events for the remainder of the year so that if we put together a brochure we will have enough info to fill it. We could do one for September/October and one for November/December if needed.

Lucille Keegan motioned to adjourn at 11 am. Hilda Bruno second.

Next Meeting: September 23rd at 9:30 am at Town Hall and via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted, Leslie Dion