

FREETOWN PARADE & FIREWORKS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 14, 2024 - 4:00pm

Community Room - Police Station

Present: Bob Gregory, Judy Gregory, Samantha Downs, Linda Remedis, Pat Wilbur,
John Remedis, Carlos Lopes, Amanda Farmer, Bob Adams, Ellen Lima,
Ashley Emery, Karen Facchiano
Absent: Jean Fox
Guest: Chief Scott Rose

Minutes of the last meeting were received.

Committee was reminded to complete ethics review (if not already done). Judy also asked if members aren't able to attend a meeting, they call or text her. On Feb 22nd, we did not have a quorum and would've canceled earlier if we knew so many could not attend.

Sam asked about the Ocean State Pyro contract(s). This year is set, and currently we have a verbal agreement for 2025 & 2026. Where the fireworks show is being paid for completely by donations, Judy will check if we can perhaps place a deposit on 2025 and 2026 in order to lock in on the following two years (especially where 2026 will be our nation's 250th).

Sam asked about P&F sponsoring Freetown's Man & Woman of the Year. She found forms online we could use for nominations, and has ideas on how to start the process. Mandy questioned if it could be someone who is not a town resident (such as a FES teacher). It was voted and passed one has to be a Freetown resident in order to be nominated and chosen. Sam agreed to chair the sub-committee for M/W of Y. (She volunteered Carlos to co-chair.)

Ashley is having problems with P&F's Facebook page for posting write-ups and photos. She will work with Carlos to get it figured out. This needs to be "straightened out" so we can use Facebook in the coming months for P&F's social media postings.

Ashley is chairing Freetown's Congregational-Christian church's booth at the fireworks festival. Discussion regarding the town's ServSafe requirements.

Bob G reminded everyone how much will need to be accomplished in the next three months by each and every member of our committee in order to guarantee the success of our two events.

As of tonight's meeting, the following are confirmed for participating as "vendors" this year: Freetown Library, Berkley Congregational, Freetown Firefighters, Girl Scouts, LIONS, Freetown Congregational. (Waiting to hear from United Church of Assonet, and Boy Scouts.)

Mandy asked about the list of sponsors from last year and which of us will be responsible for talking to them this year. She is willing to start a list of potential "new" sponsors for this year and reach out to them.

Karen asked about the forms for sponsors (that includes the info needed for our t-shirts, contact, addresses, thank you's, etc). Judy has them done, brought copies, and stressed the importance of getting the correct spelling and info from every sponsor (new or old).

Karen inquired about having long-sleeved t-shirts to sell this year. Judy will be in touch with End of the Road Tees about pricing. We'll have our (usual) short-sleeved available, and decide next month whether to also sell hoodies or long-sleeve, or just short-sleeve.

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Carlos said the selectmen are meeting March 25th and will discuss having this year's parade line-up be on Ridge Hill Road.

Carlos mentioned having mini-flags leftover from last year's parade. He'll inventory as to how many will be needed for this year, then let John know so he can ask Bob Klevecka to order more. Carlos will give Linda a list of the sports teams to call regarding participating in the parade.

Linda has been in contact with several fire departments regarding our parade. Once it's confirmed where our line-up will be, she'll officially invite them. She has also contacted Big Wheel. Judy told Sam and Linda the LIONS and Girl Scouts will participate in the parade.

John has spoken to the Downshifters Club about their participation in the parade. Linda and John also have offered to purchase some prizes for the turtle booth (as they did last year).

Pat expressed her hopes the parade line-up will be at Ridge Hill so the Veterans do not have to march as far as past years. Selectboard is meeting 3/25 to discuss 2024's line-up.

Bob A asked about contacting Amazon as a potential sponsor and offered to reach out to them. Carlos will pass on contact info he has for the (local) Amazon warehouse.

Bob A wants to build a float for M/W of Year. He will head up this project.

Ellen mentioned the town has hired Kylie Botelho, the new Community Program Director and Carlos explained what Kylie's role will be. Judy's working on meeting with her, then inviting her to attend a P&F meeting.

Chief Rose mentioned he'll have paperwork done with the selectboard where P&F will have "ownership" of Hathaway Park for July 3rd. This will allow P&F to "direct" the police to handle any potential issues. He also asked we have someone from P&F at the park to direct, oversee, etc. if needed by the police. He suggested we could assign shifts from noon on. Bob A offered to be there all day. Chief Rose said he'll also be in attendance at the next selectmen's meeting to express his hopes of the parade line-up starting at Ridge Hill. He stated this would be safer for all involved and help with coverage by his department.

Ellen expressed concerns about outside vendors unloading at the entrance to Hathaway Park. Chief Rose explained there can sometimes be difficulties policing public vendors.

Judy reminded the committee to come up with ideas for who to ask to be our Grand Marshal for this year's parade.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2024 - 6:00pm - Community Room

Meeting Adjourned: 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Gregory - Clerk