

FREETOWN PARADE & FIREWORKS MEETING

Monday, March 9, 2020 - 4:00pm  
Freetown Town Hall

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2020 APR 30 PM 3:35  
*Ja Brown*

In Attendance: Bob Gregory, Judy Gregory, Sharon Rosen, Pat Wilbur, Ashley Emery,  
Bob Adams, John Remedis, Karen Facchiano  
Absent: Linda Remedis, Jean Fox, Ellen Lima  
Guest: Mike McCue

Minutes from previous meeting of 2/10/20 read and approved.

Discussed the contract for this year's fireworks. Due to the additional tariffs and wanting to maintain the quality of the fireworks show we have, we'll need to increase our cost from \$9,999 to \$12,000 for this year - which means we'll need to put it to bid.

Judy will talk to the town accounting department as to how this will be done. Concerns also expressed at wanting to continue with Dave Suffredini from American Thunder, who has put on our fireworks for many, many years.

First checks received from our 2020 sponsors (and will be deposited) to P&F:

\$100 Joshua's Mtn. Cabinetry  
\$250 USA Core  
\$250 Westgate Performance  
\$100 Bullock Road Performance

Discussed moving the line-up of the parade from the Stop & Shop by-pass to Ridge Hill Road. Although it would shorten the length of the actual parade, it was agreed there would be additional problems (traffic, drop-offs, businesses, etc). Voted to keep the line-up on the by-pass. Judy will contact Ali to begin the process of the Town's agreement with Stop & Shop for them letting us use their by-pass.

Talked about our 2020 Grand Marshal and possible candidates. Committee agreed to ask Jackie Brown (Town Clerk) to serve in this honorary position. Jackie accepted.

Since the Standard Times has discontinued doing the Man and Woman of the Year, Mike suggested P&F begin doing this for Freetown. The committee agreed to do it starting this year. Ashley will work on how to publicize this on P&F's Facebook page asking for nominations. (We'll ask to have the approved publication also added on the town's website.) Candidates will need to be 18 or older, a town resident, and someone who has made a difference in our community. P&F committee will pick the "winners" and honor them by having them participate in our 4th of July parade.

Discussion about the parade logistics: the physical line-up, Hathaway Park concerns, etc. Sharon, Karen and Linda will meet prior to our next meeting to consider what changes and/or improvements to make, as well as determining what has been successful in past years. The judging of the parade also needs fine-tuning; talked about it taking place at the beginning.

Since more than half of our small committee is either in the parade or announcing it, Karen stressed the need for volunteers to help with with the physical line-up and then the disbanding at Hathaway. Ashley was asked to check with the Honor Society to see about having high school students help us at both ends of the parade.

John will contact Bob Klevecka about donating small flags to be passed out during the parade. Judy will contact Richie Gomes about his ice cream concession (and sponsorship) at the fireworks. Judy will be in touch with Deb at End of the Road tees about this year's t-shirt time-line, as well as any new colors. Judy will email Ellen with a request for a booth at the Strawberry Festival. Mentioned where it will be June 21st ("late" - due to it being Leap Year) we'll need to determine whether to put the flags and bunting up the (usual) 2nd week of June, or wait until the 3rd week. John offered the use of an antique car for our Grand Marshal.

Voted for the purchase of (a minimum) 40 flag kits to replace torn/worn flags, as well as replace pvc poles with wooden poles. Will also purchase bunting to replace those that are torn or faded.

Next meeting: Monday, April 13, 2020 at 4:00pm (Monday, April 6th is Town Election)

Meeting adjourned: 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Gregory - clerk