

FREETOWN PARADE & FIREWORKS COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 26, 2023 - 6:00 PM
Community Room - Police Station

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

Minutes of the last meeting were received.

Picked meeting dates for the first half of 2024. Judy will confirm with Lola F on the availability of the Community Room on the following Thursday(s) at 6pm — Feb 8th, 29th; Mar 14th, 28th; Apr 11th, 25th; May 2nd, 16th, 23rd; Jun 13th, 20th, 27th; Jul 25th.

Discussed the approach of our nation's 250th in 2026 and concerns of more towns/cities wanting to have fireworks displays. Judy has already been approached by a town asking for information on raising of funds, our provider, etc. Both reasons why she wants to "lock in" an agreement between Ocean State Pyro and Freetown P&F for at least the next 3 years with a commitment on the cost of our show. Pat made a motion P&F spends \$15,000 on Freetown's show in 2024 (with the possibility of increasing in subsequent years) which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The committee talked about bringing back Freetown's Man/Woman of the Year beginning in 2024. Working on the logistics of "how to" and "prizes". Social media was agreed as being the best way for people to be nominated and then P&F will pick the winners. We'll start "advertising" this in February/March 2024.

Mandy suggested we look into getting new sponsors next year, and make sure we know which committee members are asking which potential sponsors, so as not to ask anyone twice. Judy mentioned the success of FES's FunRun and its local sponsors, who P&F may approach. Sam noted with the more people/kids in our parade, we may need additional transportation. John's working on VFW's recognition of "town public servants" and including in our parade. Ellen is concerned with the railroad impact on parade line-up at Ridge Hill Road. Judy assured her much is yet to be discussed with various town entities as to where 2024 line-up will occur. Bob A would like to build a float for those town members who will be recognized in 2024.

Next Meeting: (tentative) Thursday, February 8, 2024 - 6 pm (Community Room) *
* checking on availability, then will confirm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Gregory - Clerk