

# FREETOWN PARADE & FIREWORKS MEETING

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 - 4:00pm

Freetown Town Hall

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

2020 FEB 13 P 11:13  
Jel Brown

Minutes from previous meeting of 7/29/19 read and approved.

In preparation for 2020:

- discussed the need for increasing our budget for fireworks, due to rising costs, and (especially) the added tariffs
- went over our finances, we're in good standing
- concerns expressed about the "aging" committee members and need for more help with the physical aspects of all that needs to be done for both events - discussed asking for help from those needing community service hours, and to consider asking for help from Transition House, Crystal Springs, HS students, church youth, etc.
- suggestion made we "separate" our Parade from our Fireworks Festival (in order to help "lighten the load" for the committee) and (maybe) have a town parade at another time of the year (ie: Memorial Day, Christmas, Veteran's Day) — or possibly do away with having a town Parade
- discussed at length the anticipated increase in costs of putting on our fireworks in 2020 - do we stay with the same budget (\$9,999) and get less fireworks, or go up on our cost (which will require going out to bid)
- a conference call made to Dave Suffredini, from American Thunder (our fireworks supplier) to talk about tariffs and costs; in 2020 there will be a 15% increase in tariffs
- after the conference call, the committee discussed the cost of the 2020 fireworks at length; agreed that Judy will contact Dave S. to work with us on getting a proposal together for putting our show out to bid
- the committee wants our fireworks show to continue having the high standards it's had in the past, which will mean an increase in our budget
- went over the time-line for 2020 and all that will need to be done
- asked the committee to think about the need for fine-tuning the judging in 2020
- asked for ideas on the parade line-up and where (possibly Ridge Hill Road?), as well as the disbanding issues at Hathaway Park (where the parade ends)
- asked John about new speakers for the Festival to help more people hear his announcing, etc; John now has 1000 watt speakers to help with this concern

Next meeting: (tentatively) Monday, January 12, 2020 at 4pm

Meeting adjourned: 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Gregory - clerk