

Minutes
Seymour Memorial Day Committee
September 13, 2018

Members Present-Alex Danka, Beverly Kennedy, Fred Stanek, Karen Stanek, John Stelma

Members Absent-Preet Singh

Others Present- Robert Lang, Lucy McConologue

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Minutes for the August meeting of August 8, 2018 were reviewed and the motion to accept the minutes was made by Karen Stanek and seconded by Beverly Kennedy.

Motion was made to accept the Treasurers report by John Stelma and seconded by Beverly Kennedy. It was mentioned that when the Memorial Day Committee and Christmas Parade are combined into one committee there will be a separate account for each of the parades.

Public Comment-none

Open Forum-Memorial Day Parade-Alex to talk to Kurt Miller and George Temple of Oxford to see if the towns of Oxford and Seymour would be interested in combining into one parade if it is feasible. Presently Oxford holds their parade on Monday while Seymour has its parade on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day. Benefits of this proposal would be more bands, more resources, and more money.

One idea that was proposed for the parade route was to have it in Seymour one year and Oxford in the alternating years.Fred Stanek questioned if there would be an increase in attendance by having a combined parade.

The application for the grant for a new bandstand to be used as a reviewing stand (Matthies Foundation) can continue as well as the race in Oxford if we combine the two towns into one parade.

The Christmas Parade was next on the agenda with date options for the 2018 Christmas Parade. Proposed was the Saturday after Thanksgiving with a Sunday rain date. It was brought up by Robert Lang that the reason for the Sunday date of the parade with a rain date of the following Sunday was due to merchant complaints with the Saturday date. The next date option was for Saturday December 1st combining the parade with the 1st Saturday event and the arrival of Santa. It was also brought up that the possibility could exist with the combination of three Christmas events-Culture and Arts which occurs on the 1st Saturday, the Land Trust on the 2nd Saturday, and the Christmas Parade the weekend of Thanksgiving.First Saturday event is in need of a Santa and float.History of the Christmas parade was presented by Robert Lang who stated that it started in 1971 and the preferred date was the Saturday after Thanksgiving with the next day set as the rain date (24th November with a rain date of Nov. 25). An additional option was the Friday after Thanksgiving.It was stated that weather was the determining factor as to the size of the crowd more than the date it was held.

Fred Stanek made the motion that the Christmas Parade be moved to the Saturday after Thanksgiving with the rain date of the next day (Sun. after Thanksgiving) after Beverly Kennedy seconded the motion. Alex to go to the next Board of Selectmen meeting with a presentation on the proposed date change. John will send a letter to Rory and Kurt to add the Parade Committee to the agenda of the next Board of Selectman meeting. The parades would maintain two separate treasuries even though the actual groups are combined. Funds for the Christmas parade were detailed and included \$3500 from the town, and \$1000 each from Haynes, Zois Pizza, Valley Foundation and with matching funds from Floyd Moir for a parade with a combined expense of \$8-9k. Memorial Day in comparison had expenses of \$10-12k which included essays. Christmas parade invitations for participating groups usually are sent with a description of the parade theme. A proposed Grand Marshall was also stated for the past police chief who has just retired at the beginning of the summer. Additional awards for the Christmas Parade were in the areas of Business Person of the Year (with a proposed nominee of Melissa Smith associated with the Lions Club as well as the Shell Station)-motion by Lucy McConologue and seconded by Karen Stanek- and the Community Service Award with the honor this year going to Ann and Frank Conroy. The motion was made by Karen Stanek with a second by John Stelma.

Mike Wilson, superintendent of Schools will ride in a car as well as a teacher of the year selected by the Administration.

A band or Dance group will also entertain the crowd before the parade starts then will proceed to the end of the parade.

Proposal was further discussed to put on the agenda of the next Board of Selectman meeting items pertaining to the Christmas and Memorial Day Committees to include the date of the parades, name change of the Christmas and Memorial Day Committees to the Seymour Parade Committees (plural) and to select and reaffirm names on each of the committees to the newly named committee for a 2 year term.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting set for the 11th of October.

Respectfully submitted,

John Stelma