

## **Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Meeting, September 1, 2015**

### **Present:**

Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer, Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson, Bob Fichtel, and Karen Mattus. Guest, Lois Somers.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Steve announced that he will attend the Selectmen's meeting next week, to ensure that we have a one-day-only liquor license for the Oktoberfest.

### **Contra Dance**

Lois Somers presented information on Contra Dancing, for members of the committee unfamiliar with the term. Unlike square dance, contra dancers need not wear special dress, nor come with a partner. Partners can be of either gender, and all ages participate equally. The caller teaches each dance before it is played. The band is made up of musicians who are there to play for the fun of it, although the caller is paid a stipend of around \$125 to \$150. The band plays traditional American music on fiddle, bass, guitar, and whatever other instruments are available. Dancers and the band will want water to drink, and maybe simple refreshments like cookies and brownies. Setup will require chairs for the band, and for dancers to rest between sets, and a table for the water and snacks. The dance will last three hours, 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Pat and George will reserve the Ashburnham Community Church fellowship hall for a Friday or Saturday evening in early November, depending on availability of the caller. Lois will engage the caller and recruit musicians, and Pat and George will manage church logistics. The committee voted in favor of the plan. Lois will report to Pat when a caller has been engaged, and the dance will be listed on the Committee's postcard to townspeople, announcing upcoming events.

### **Parade Plans**

The committee reviewed the number of magnetic signs needed to identify persons in cars in the parade: six cars, two signs each (left and right): Grand Marshals, American Legion, Legion Women's Auxiliary, Miss Massachusetts, Ashburnham Selectmen, and Brothers of the Brush. Patty needs to submit an invoice for printing the signs by the end of next week.

We need to contact the Council on Aging and First Student about buses to shuttle various parade participants from where they have left their cars, to their respective staging areas.

Oakmont Youth Soccer has announced games scheduled for Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Landry Field. Coach Ellen Holmes will be contacted to alert her to the schedule conflict, and the need to use Landry Field as parade terminal that day.

Buses can be parked at the Briggs School and Stevens Memorial Library parking areas.

Three golf carts for parade officials will be delivered to the Town Barn. Once the police have closed the streets to traffic, the golf carts can be operated legally on those streets.

Porta-potties will be located at Old Nims Road, Winchester Park and Briggs School.

Reviewing Stand bleachers will be located on the pavement in front of Athol Savings Bank. AWCA will plug into Town Hall's Cable system, for reviewing stand coverage.

We will borrow Oakmont High School's sound system, and pay an equipment-use-certified student to run it for the duration of the parade.

The postcard to be mailed to all townspeople will announce the Parade, Paint Ashburnham, the Climb up Mount Watatic, Oktoberfest, and Contra Dance.

The Grand Marshals should eat lunch with the US Navy Band. They can ride in the parade as far as the reviewing stand, watch the parade from there, then return to the car to finish the parade. At the Navy Band luncheon, the Grand Marshals can be presented with framed certificates. Pat will be in charge of welcoming the Marshals and Band to the luncheon, and making sure everything there runs smoothly.

JROTC students will be asked to help with Parking/No Parking logistics.

At the upcoming Thursday meeting with Police Chief Barrett, decisions will be made on when to post "Parking" and "No Parking" signs, and when roads will be closed, and opened again.

Letters will be sent to all parade route abutters, with the parade schedule and road closings.

Susie will send e-mails to participants, telling where to leave cars, which division they are in, and where to report for staging.

## **Staging Areas**

### Division I

From the traffic island at High Street and Main, extending up High Street.

### Division II

From the traffic island at High Street and Main, extending North along Main Street

### Division III

Old Nims Road, extending toward cemetery

### Division IV

Upper driveway to Cushing Academy's Iorio Arena

### Division V

Behind Division II, North along Main Street (Rte. 12) toward the blinking yellow light at the intersection with Lashua and Corey Hill Roads

The American Legion's Color Guard is reported to be well prepared. Laurie Denault will report to Bob on participation numbers (rides needed) for the Legion Women's Auxiliary, after their Wednesday evening meeting.

We should try to get both advance notice and follow-up reporting in The Gardner News. George will contact Steve Wendell about radio coverage.

Patty distributed two pages of budget figures: projected, and actual to-date spending. Several companies need to be reminded to send invoices to Patty for submission to the Town in time to receive the money to pay them.

A new band has asked to be included: The Immaculate Heart of Mary School Band, from the Still River neighborhood of Harvard, MA. The "military-style", award-willing band charges \$1,000 to participate. This is within our budget, and the committee agreed to include them.

We will ask the Trustees of the Hoffman Fund to cover the fee for the "Ancient Mariners" band.

We should have two bands for the Oktoberfest. Committee members tendered various suggestions.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35; motion accepted, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia H. Frederick*

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary