

Lyme Independence Day Committee Meeting, Wednesday April 1, 2015

Location: Town office conference room.

Attendees: Matt Brown, Maryellen Corliss, Sarah Crockett, James Graham, Patty Jenks, J.J. Pippin
Public: Bill Murphy, Nancy Grandine

The meeting came to order at 7:30pm

Patty reminded the committee that not all the members had been sworn in and that the swearing-in needs to take place before any official business can occur.

The committee members agreed to take on the following rolls. (A vote will be held at the next meeting to make them official.)

J.J. Pippin – Chairwoman
Maryellen Corliss – Treasurer
James Graham – Secretary

James brought the committee up to speed on the work that he and Matt had done so far in creating a music festival for the 4th. Copies of the grant proposal that will be submitted to the Lyme Foundation were distributed. (See Attached.)

Fundraising

Matt explained the prior Independence Day Celebration fundraising scheme where monies raised in a given year were used to fund the subsequent year's event.

There was discussion of a direct mail campaign as suggested in the grant proposal. Maryellen suggested that her place of work might be able to provide stationary supplies. Patty reminded us that the Town has a special rate for mailings.

Sarah suggested using other funding sources as well such as Kickstarter, Facebook, and Gofundme.com. The possibility of using those was left open.

There was discussion of appealing businesses and individuals as underwriters of the event. James suggested creating a program and selling advertising space similar to the 8th grade basketball tournament program. Maryellen suggested the idea of having a silent auction the day of the event.

Food

Matt said that Those Guys plan to do a breakfast on the 4th and invite all-comers.

There was some discussion about having vendors and whether they should be charged a fee, whether the LCC might want to run a supper or a potluck. Nancy Grandine said the LCC probably would not be interested in running a supper as another vendor to the event, however, the idea of a potluck was left open.

There was also some discussion about whether having vendors would be proper use of the common but Patty reminded us that a precedent has already been set with the Saturday flea market.

Matt and J.J. agreed to take on the task of organizing food.

Entertainment and Activities

Bill Murphy was given a chance to present his idea of having a patriotic oratorical contest. The committee generally agreed that this would be a good activity to take place as part of the main events of the evening.

There was discussion about having the Lyme Town Band. James has corresponded with Blake Allison about their participation but hasn't heard back definitely. Regarding other bands, James has spoken with Dan Friehofer and he has promised that his band will be available. James' band will also be available depending on the timing of their performance. Maryellen mentioned a colleague who is a bluegrass musician and performer who may be interested in participating.

Matt has spoken with Dave Celone about running an art show out of the horse sheds during the morning and mid-day hours. Patty reminded us that the LCC manages the horse sheds and they will need to be involved if that's to take place.

Sarah and James agreed to work on the parade plans. James agreed to take a lead on the organizing the music.

Other Business

It was agreed that the next meeting be held Monday, April 20th at 7:30pm in the same location.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Minutes submitted by James Graham, Secretary

Grant Proposal for funding Lyme Independence Day Celebration

Building on memories of success of the Lyme 250th anniversary celebration, and feeling chagrined at the loss of the July 4th event at the Chase Beach area, we, Matt Brown and James Graham, have come up with a concept for an art and music festival on the Lyme Common for the 4th of July. Sharing the idea with Diana Cutting and the Selectmen has led to the revival of the Independence Day Committee for the purpose implementing this idea*. The event requires some funding and we are applying to the Lyme Foundation on behalf of this newly reborn committee for a grant of seed money to re-establish the tradition of a community event marking the 4th of July in Lyme. The Selectmen will review our proposal and provide final approval for both this grant application and plans for the event itself.

The Selectmen's charge for the Committee sets up a financing system similar to what was in place in the past. This worked by putting monies raised each year into a Town managed fund that was then released for use the following year by Town Meeting vote. Most of the fundraising for each year was done at or closely associated with the prior year's event. Because the last July 4th event was considered the last of its kind, fundraising was not done for the following year. Currently there is \$249 left in this fund. This money is not available for use this year because we did not vote at Town Meeting to release it.

On behalf of this newly formed Independence Day Committee, we request a grant of \$3500 as start-up money for the 2015 Independence Day Celebration. The first \$500 we would use to fund an appeal for donations in the form of a town-wide mailing. The balance of \$3000 we propose to be offered in the form of a matching grant. If successful this would provide a total of \$6500, enough to fund this year's event and have a start on the fund for next year. We think we are asking for this as a one-time grant because we are hoping the event itself can generate donations for the next year, as it did in the past.

The budget shown below needs to be approved by the newly formed Independence Day Committee. We have consulted various vendors for these prices:

Item	estimated cost
Fund-raising expenses	500
40x80 tent for music performance (Promania Tents)	1500
20x40 tent for dining and other activities (Those Guys)	100
Stage (8 x 16) and dance floor (12 x 24), (provided by Matt Brown)	200
Lights	120
Sound reinforcement (Sound:still)	1100
Entertainment	1500
Porta-potties (K & R Portable Toilets)	400
Contingency	400
Totals	5820

The Independence Day Committee will work together to establish details of the day.
Some current ideas are:

An Arts & Crafts Fair in the horse sheds during the morning hours (tentatively 9:30 – 1)
(likely managed by Dave Celone of Long River Studios)
Afternoon parade preparation activities
Parade with the Lyme Town Band (5 pm)
Potluck or Church supper under the tent (5:30 - 7)
Musical acts from 6:30 – 10:00

We are grateful for all the work the Lyme Foundation has done in its support of the Lyme Community. We think the event described here is in line with the intentions of the Foundation and hope that the Foundation will be able to join us in helping to create a July 4th event that celebrates our nation's birthday with good fellowship, creativity and fun in a way resonant of some of the best cooperative community traditions of our wonderful town of Lyme, many of which have centered around use of this same Lyme Town Common.

Matt Brown
James Graham

With the approval of the Selectmen of the Town of Lyme

*Lyme Independence Day Committee:

Matt Brown
Maryellen Corliss
Sarah Crockett
James Graham
Patty Jenks (Selectboard representative)
J.J. Pippin (a member of the former Independence Day Committee)

see attachment:

plan drawing of the proposed tent locations

JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY PROPOSAL, FOR THE TOWN OF LYME, NH

DRAWN BY MATT BROWN, 3/22/2015

