

Chester 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee Meeting
May 24, 2022
Approved Minutes
7:00 PM

Members present:

Jean Methot, Chairman
Chris Hadik, Vice Chairman
Rhonda Lamphere, Treasurer
Sue Rieter
Nancy Jolin (remotely)
Edward Stuart (remotely)

Members absent:

Jeff Dinopoulos

Guests present:

Jay Bishop
Stephen O. Landau, Selectmen's Liaison
Chester PACT

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Methot called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

2. Attendance/Chairman's Announcement

3. Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2022

Mr. Hadik moved to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2022, meeting as written. Ms. Lamphere seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Member Comments

5. General Business – New and Old

a. Proclamation Day – Recap

Chairman Methot reported that although the weather was cold, Proclamation Day went well. The proclamations from the governor and the senators were not read. Mr. Hadik said all remarks he heard about the event were positive. The Committee believe more people would have attended if the weather was warmer, but there was a good turnout. Ms. Lamphere said \$1,532 worth of merchandise was sold, \$816 in credit cards – the best day of sales they've had so far. The governor's webpage had pictures of his participation.

b. Merchandise

The Committee discussed ordering more merchandise to be sold at upcoming events and the rest of the year. They agreed to order more mugs. Mr. Bishop asked if they should offer a set of ornaments, since the sets of mugs have sold so well. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. Banners

Mr. Hadik said they are having issues with hanging the banners on Route 102, as a police detail is needed. The banners are stretching in the heat and the wind is affecting the brackets. The number of brackets, bands, and poles needed was discussed.

d. Sponsorships

Ms. Lamphere reported another \$6,000 in sponsorships has been sold. An entertainment sponsor was added at \$5,000 and is picking up the finale entertainment costs. The finale expenses increased when the Town Fair Committee decided not to partner with the 300th on the Grand Finale. \$121,000 in sponsorships has been taken in, which includes barter. There are still outstanding expenses.

e. Cost of past events

Ms. Lamphere reported she does not have the costs figured out yet, but is working on it.

f. Other General Business

1. Ongoing Geocache

Ms. Jolin has reached out to Meranda, but hasn't heard how the geocaching is going. At Proclamation Day, there were already people who had completed the entire series on the first day.

6. Upcoming Events and Budgets

a. 5K Race

Ms. Maria Veale has been busy with the Pounder, so this will be discussed at the next meeting.

i. T-Shirts

The Committee discussed what will be printed on the T-shirts. Ms. Rieter will find out the cost of printing.

b. Firemen's Muster

Ms. Jolin reported the planning is going well. The registration form was sent to 22 fire departments and they are beginning to respond to Mr. Costine. He has asked for a sound system and Sharon will work this event instead of the finale. The firetruck will provide power. Ms. Jolin has reached out to food vendors and is waiting for responses. Private offsite parking has been arranged and will need a shuttle.

The Committee discussed the possibility of inviting enough food trucks to promote it as a food truck festival, which could attract more attendees. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. Car Show

Mr. Stuart asked regarding the date of the next TRC meeting. Mr. Hadik will meet with the TRC regarding the car show and the firemen's muster. Mr. Stuart will reach out to the Chester School District office to get on the next School Board meeting agenda and will contact the Town to reserve the fields. He reported on the status of preparations. They discussed ways to advertise events on the day of the event using the Town electronic signs.

The Committee discussed the problem of all Town residents not receiving mailings and how to solve this issue.

d. Parade

i. General

Ms. Lamphere reported the planning is going well. Lots of volunteers will be needed. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

ii. Program Timeline

The Committee discussed the design of and the contents of the program, and when it should be mailed to Chester residents. All information needs to be to Ms. Rieter by July 15th to have it printed on time.

iii. Parade Volunteer Shirts

The Committee discussed the printing on the volunteer's shirts. Ms. Rieter asked about the need for one-color logos.

iv. Banners

The Committee discussed banners for the parade and when they will be needed.

e. Finale

Ms. Jolin reported the planning is going well. She is speaking with vendors and the bands are reserved. Mr. Hadik updated the Committee on discussions with the fireworks operator.

f. Private Parking and Insurance

Mr. Hadik has a quote for insurance, although the policy cannot be written until 90 days before the event. The price is higher than originally thought, which is due to the presence of alcohol and banners.

g. Meeting with BOS

Ms. Lamphere suggested meeting with the Board of Selectmen on June 16th to discuss the upcoming events. Ms. Rieter and Ms. Jolin need to be reappointed at this meeting as well.

7. Next meeting – June 14th and July 12th

8. Adjourn

Ms. Rieter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hadik seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary