

INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

AUGUST 8, 2017

Present: James Graham, Sarah Crockett, Laurie Wadsworth, Susanne Simon, Darin Knaus, Patty Jenks

Despite best laid plans the 2017 Independence Day met with some pretty significant challenges:

- The weather was a fright, with rain, moderate to heavy much of the day. There were many brave souls who came anyway.
- The parade was suspended because of lightening.
- The meal was moved into the church because of heavy downpours and lightening.
- The entertainment was relocated inside and, eventually the whole business was shut down early because of flash flooding, power outages and a directive from the emergency management operations headquarters.
- One committee member was out of town and one was called away on personal family concerns and again later to assist emergency operations leaving a very slight skeleton committee to run the show—which they are to be commended for managing under such difficult circumstances. Many volunteers jumped in to help, which is enormously appreciated.

Questions:

- Should the event have been cancelled or postponed once the weather reports indicated adverse conditions? Does the Town have a policy about this? If not, should one be established to eliminate last minute angst and dangers?
- The question was broached as to why Lyme does not celebrate on the actual 4th of July. The reasons vary, but it was the sense of the committee to continue holding the event the Saturday closest to the 4th.

Action items for the 2018 event:

- Sarah Crockett felt the food committee needs to be more robust. She will inquire if Chef Larry has an interest in heading this part of the event.
- Several felt there needs to be a more cohesive committee; one that is committed to attending meetings for the few months it takes to plan the event and one that includes people who can be there that day. Patty let the committee know she would not be able to help next year. Others indicated they would still like to be involved.
- More volunteers to help would be great. We were extremely fortunate that several people jumped in at the last minute to help.
- Suggest that planning for 2018 start in November 2017 with an organizational meeting and call for members.
- The 2018 event will be held July 7th.

A list of people to be thanked was created and divided up between committee members.

Because of the emergency weather and subsequent damages, office personnel have been very busy with meetings and reports. Consequently, the actual expenses information is not yet available. We look forward to those numbers as soon as possible.

All previous minutes were approved for posting.

Patty Jenks, recorder