

Lyme Independence Day Committee Meeting, Monday April 20, 2015

Location: Lyme Fire Station conference room (Relocated from Academy Building due to power outage.)

Attendees: Matt Brown, Sarah Crockett, James Graham, Patty Jenks, J.J. Pippin, Shaun O'Keefe
Public: Bill Murphy

The meeting came to order at 7:35pm

The minutes from the prior meeting were approved unanimously.

Food subcommittee:

J.J. and Matt reported they are organizing a "potluck picnic with prizes" as the main food offering. They hope to get support for this from the LCC especially in the use of the church's tables and chairs.

In addition to the potluck they also plan to contact the following as possible vendors to the event: Loch Lyme, Lyme Country Store, Lyme Inn, Stella's, Dowd's Inn, Paphan.

Denise Frawley is interested in organizing a pie-eating contest

Infrastructure:

Shaun suggested closing off the Back of the Common from both ends and only allowing vehicles for vendor and entertainment set up. There could also be a lane open for access to parking at Lyme Timber and Lyme Computer (pending approval from those land owners) and also for the residents of that street.

Matt suggested that John Thompson Way be open from 7a - 9a for artists and crafts people to set up for the arts and crafts show in the Horse sheds and then for that street to be closed to traffic from 9a - 2pm when the arts and crafts show ends. Crafts people and artists will be directed to park their vehicles at the American Legion up behind the sheds.

Shaun suggested setting up a cross-walk between the Common and the front of the Congregationalist Church with fences put into place along the north side of the Common to direct pedestrian traffic.

Parade:

Shaun suggested that the parade be staged along Market Street and should be strictly organized for safety. He suggested the following order for participants:

- 1 - Fire Truck
- 2 - Kids walking and on bikes (no motorized toys)
- 3 - Wagons and floats
- 4 - Band
- 5 - Cars and horses

There was discussion about how to get the Lyme Town Band from where they'll be performing on the Common to their place in the parade. Sarah suggested that their trailer could be parked along the back of the Common so that they could mount it close to where

they're performing and then they could be towed into place as the parade emerges from Market Street. The Committee agreed this was feasible but would require good organization.

Sarah asked about sending out a notice inviting people to participate in the parade. Shaun suggested we keep in mind that the Lyme List goes to many people outside of Lyme. James suggested making use of the church newsletter and the school newsletter in addition to the listserv. James and Sarah will draft an invite for approval at the next meeting.

James suggested using the Little Common and a staging and viewing area for classic cars and other parade vehicles.

Entertainment

Matt suggested there could be some light musical entertainment happening in the morning during the Horse Sheds Arts and Crafts show.

James spoke with Blake Allison who said the Lyme Town Band can perform that day. They would hope to perform a concert for about an hour leading up to the parade and then participate in the parade.

James reported that Dan Freihofer will be getting a group together for first band time slot after the parade.

J.J. reported that she's working on getting the following for afternoon activities:

- Climbing wall (ROTC recruiting group)

- Bouncy House

- Pony rides

James suggested having a dunk tank that would also serve as a fund raiser.

Bill Murphy shared information about his proposed public speaking contest. Participants would be encouraged to "give a recitation that dramatizes American History." The Committee felt that this could take place immediately after the parade for no more than an hour.

J.J. suggested a Chinese lantern launch at 9pm. James suggested that an adult be required to supervise each lantern lighting and launch.

Fundraising

Patty reported that the Town cannot accommodate a Kickstarter or GoFundMe type campaign.

The Committee is still looking to raise most of this year's funds via the Lyme Foundation and a direct mailing fundraising letter to Town residence. The Lyme Foundation has yet to respond to our grant proposal.

Matt suggested having a table amongst the vendors devoted to raising funds for next year.

Mary Ellen has volunteered to print letters and stuff envelopes.

Matt asked if we might want to include raising funds for improving the American Legion parking, specifically for creating a walkway with a handrail. It was felt that such a project was outside of the scope of this committee.

Schedule

Currently the schedule is shaping up as follows:

7:00a – Set up begins for Horse Sheds Arts and Crafts Show.

8:30a – Those Guys Breakfast starts in the LCC

9:00a – John Thompson Way closed to traffic. Horse sheds show setup ends

9:30a – Horse Sheds Arts and Crafts show opens.

10:00a – Those Guys Breakfast ends

2:00p – Horse Sheds Arts and Crafts show ends – John Thompson Way re-opened to traffic.

3:00p – Common activities commence.

- Lyme Town Band Concert until 4:45

- Bouncy House

- Climbing Wall

- Pony rides

- Parade preparation (bike decoration?, car show?)

- Face painting (?)

4:00p – Parade starts

5:00p – Public speaking contest begins

5:30p – Potluck Picnic with Prizes

6:00p – Dan and the Dinosaurs on the main stage until 8pm.

8:15 – Redhouse on the main stage until 10:15.

Next Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 4 at 7:30p. Parade prep discussion to begin after Sarah's arrival at 8pm. Location to be announced.

Submitted by James Graham, Secretary