

Town of Stafford
Events & Celebrations Committee
Warren Memorial Town Hall
1st Floor Conference Room

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Laura Lybarger
Treasurer

Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 6:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Brian Goepfrich, Jodi Harmon, Phen Harison, Rey Fabrizio, Laura Lybarger
Members Absent: Brian Jakusik, Beth Stringfield, Chelsea Bellefleur, Cassandra Forsythe
Others Present: Alycia Johnston, Amber Wakley (*Town Representative*), Lenny Corto, Kitty Schooley

1. Call meeting to order

The meeting began at 6:38 PM.

2. Approval of meeting Minutes

Laura motioned to approve the minutes without any changes, Brian seconded Laura's motion, and all committee members voted in the affirmative.

3. Community-Wide Cleanup Day

The Date of the event has been confirmed for April 22, 2023, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Amber spoke with the Transfer Station, and they have indicated that separating cans and bottles would not be a good idea as the wear and tear of the environment will erase the bar codes to redeem money, and it would not be worth the effort to do so. The event will reuse the blue and yellow trash bags that were purchased last year. Additional bags will be purchased, and Safety Vests will be purchased. Amber indicated that she would handle the purchasing of materials. Like in the past year, groups and individuals will be able to pick up materials two weeks ahead of the event. The committee has indicated that they will remain with safety vests only for this year and will reconsider possible t-shirts in future events. The committee indicated that they would investigate ordering custom stickers for the vest.

Poster Competition:

Amber, Laura, and Kitty will organize the poster art competition for Stafford schools. It was proposed that Rotary and Lions club donate \$200.00 each to the poster competition for a prize. The deadline for submissions would be March 15, 2023, and a form for submission would be created. The theme of the competition will be to "Keep Stafford Beautiful." We will contact the library to show the submissions of the poster and use the display case that they have. The committee will ultimately vote for the best Poster and will award winners 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.

Phen and Rey discussed that the Arts Commission was proposing to unveil the mural after the event. It was determined that the approval of the mural might not be made in time for the event, but it is an idea we can look into.

Amber indicated that she has met with town officials who confirmed that the Dumpster could be moved from the Town Hall to Hyde Park on the day of the event. It will be located behind the Historical Society.

Day Of Event Operations

It was determined that the Committee would need to be ready to set up the event at 7:30 AM. Kitty indicated that the Lions Club would bring their trailer to serve Coffee and Donuts. The location of the event will be Hyde Park, and the Rain Location will be Town Hall Parking Lot. It will be determined if pizza and drinks will be able to be provided to volunteers. Members proposed getting new businesses like Still Water Grill and other businesses to be involved in assisting with providing food to volunteers.

Amber indicated that she would inquire about picnic tables in Hyde Park to ensure that members had a place to eat after the event.

Jodi indicated that she would investigate possible stickers for the event and bring back prices and costs. It was suggested to ask Village Springs for possible water donations for the volunteers.

Brian and Amber would secure two tents each for the event and bring them in the morning for set up.

7. Discuss Events Calendar and Potential future Activities:

Ice Skate Night:

Skating night for future events when the weather stays sufficiently cold. Amber has confirmed that the Ice Rink is available, and that town official would be more than willing to host an event. It was determined that the Thunderbirds would bring send their mascot to events on planned requests. The There will be an Egg Hunt on April 1, 2023, spearheaded by local businesses, with a private Planning Facebook group. This event will be at the Middle School and will be a registered event for participation. The event will have a food Vendor.

Memorial Day Parade:

Will occur on May 29, 2023. Amber indicated that American Legion would coordinate the memorials and flags for the cemetery. The committee will be able to coordinate the parade and other activities. A parade is a signup event, and any group can join the parade. It was requested that we contact state officials, the Stafford High School Marching Band, UConn Marching Band, and the National Guard to participate in the Parade. Brian was assigned to contact UConn Marching band. Members recommended that we coordinate classic cars and horses, and carriages to participate in the parade.

SummerFest:

Summerfest has been confirmed for Wednesday, June 28, 2023. Amber discussed the need to rent a trailer and stage for the event.

Stafford Neighborhood Picnic:

The committee determined to take last year's Rotary event of New Neighbors to Stafford and change it to the Stafford Neighborhood Picnic. A date was selected for August 5, 2023, at Hyde Park. Committee members will work with Real-Estate Agencies to notify and encourage new residents to Stafford. Rotary will work to bring Utter Delights for a food venue. The event will be held at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM instead of 1:00 PM due to concerns about heat. Amber would work with town officials to have picnic tables set up in the park.

First Responder Volunteer Appreciation Day:

Amber discussed that the First Selectman has requested that the Committee plan a First Responder Appreciation Day for Stafford First Responders. Committee members asked what specifically the Selectman wanted from the event and what funds we would have to plan an event. Amber indicated she would seek clarification. Committee members proposed a dinner or breakfast along with a First Responder Volunteer of the year award that would be presented by the Selectman.

Rotary Means Business Networking Event:

This event will be on March 28, 2023, at the Four Seasons. A collaboration event between the Town of Stafford, Rotary, and local businesses to promote local business. A speaker will be future, and registration is currently open. The link to the event is located here.

<https://staffordctrotary.org/event/rotary-means-business-event/>

Flag Day:

Members discussed ensuring we support Paradiso's Flag Day event on June 14, 2023.

June Pride Celebration:

Rey proposed creating an event in June to celebrate Pride Month. Discussion about organizing an event such as a Pride Brunch, Celebratory week, LGBTQ Trivia, Pups, and Pride Parade. Committee members discussed further research would need to be done to determine what would be an ideal event. Brian was informed to contact UConn Pride Center to obtain resources.

Road Race:

Committee members discussed the potential of hosting a potential road race in early October. Further research is required from the committee to determine if this could be done.

4. Adjournment

Brian Motioned to adjourn the committee meeting, Laura seconded the motion, all members voted in the affirmative. The meeting concluded at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian J. Goepfrich
Interim Secretary
Town of Stafford of Events and Celebrations Committee