

LIGHT UP THOMASTON

MINUTES OF MEETING 7/20/16

PRESENT: Maureen Wilkas, James Wilkas, Heather Wing, Lauren Marano, Don Lamy, Lindsey LeVasseur, Tom LeVasseur, Michelle LeVasseur, Camden Vadney, Joyce Berch, Jennifer Nolan, Lynn Skaret, Olivia Skaret, Tina Duffy

RECEIVED
JUL 25 2016
Time 1:45 P
Thomaston Town Clerk
C. B. [Signature]

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

We welcomed our new volunteers; Jennifer, Lynn and Olivia. Lynn informed us that her 19 year old son would be able to help with ladder climbing. Jennifer also offered her husband's assistance with ladders.

Maureen provided the current status of entertainment. The committee approved the Wood Carver's fee increase this year from \$200 to \$300. The committee also approved Jason Pipetone's fee increase of \$50. Maureen confirmed we have a signed contract for our karaoke provider/DJ. We also have confirmation that the balloon benders and unicyclists will participate again this year. We discussed the addition of the Trackless Train, which is a cost of \$800. The committee approved the train and the fee for this year's event. We also discussed the options of having the train run up and down Main Street or on High Street by Adam's and the Center School, and the option of using the train in the parade to carry the characters. The committee approved the use of the train to carry the characters as it will yield one less float we need to prep for the parade. Another entertainment item discussed was the Petting Zoo. The previous Petting Zoo provider has taken their fee from \$850 to \$610 but cannot provide many animals. Maureen found a second farm willing to participate however they charge \$650 and the committee was not impressed with the animal offerings. Lynn offered to check with her coworkers at the daycare center she works for to provide alternatives as they have used animal vendors in the past. Finally we discussed inviting the Sunshine Band back to perform this year as we enjoyed their participation in last year's event.

Next we discussed the Auto Show. The committee agreed not to sell food this year as we have not had the success given the amount of work and money it has taken previously to have a food booth at the show. We discussed the options of having a booth to recruit volunteers and sell Light Up branded items. Some ideas we reviewed for sale items include tee shirts (not popular among the committee), travel mugs, frisbees, hats, scarves. We agreed we could sell items leading up to the event as well as give out leftovers to volunteers and possibly at the event itself. The committee agreed to look into the items we're considering selling in more detail and come prepared to discuss cost and design options at the next meeting in August.

Lynn and Jennifer suggested the idea of having a photo booth or backdrop available at Light Up this year. We discussed taking prop donations to make them available for photo ops. We also discussed creating a hashtag and encouraging event attendees to share their photos on social

media. The committee liked the idea of the backdrop and props as it would not require hiring a vendor or any cost.

Maureen informed us that Lisa Lizotte has offered to coordinate the Window Decorating Contest again this year and the committee approved.

We then discussed the recruitment and coordination of volunteers. Lauren offered to be in charge of coordinating hours/tasks with the volunteers. Maureen will provide Lauren with a detailed list of bucketed tasks that volunteers can choose from for participation. We agreed as a committee that we'd like to assign volunteers specific tasks in time slots vs. expecting volunteers to come all day to help set up for the event. Everyone felt this was a better approach and could perhaps help gain more help this year. Maureen also informed us that we already have full coverage for the Festival of Trees this year during the day of the event, which happened through her post on Facebook.

Joyce agreed to head the Festival of Trees. She also stated that she would be aking cupcakes again this year.

We decided that the Frozen themed float/tent might be outdated this year, and agreed to change the theme to the Island of Misfit Toys (Rudolph). We also discussed the option of adding a Grinch character to add fun to the event. Maureen also shared a Light Up stick option for the Santa gift; the committee approved it. Because there seemed to be too many hotdogs last year, we decided to leave it to the ambulance to give them out. We discussed other food options to pass out at the event. Some ideas were popcorn balls and cookies. Everyone was asked to come up with ideas and get prices.

We also reviewed the current budget which Maureen will be providing to the selectmen at the next meeting for town committee members. The committee approved the budget. Maureen also informed us of the grant we applied for through Thomaston Savings Bank, which amounts to about \$5000 and covers the purchase of Safety Cones and some electrical work that can be done to save time and hassle on the day of the event.

Next we reviewed options for storing floats. Tina offered to talk to her brother about any available units he may have leading up to the event. She also mentioned she has one unit that will potentially be available but we will not know until later in the year.

A new item we discussed were getting student volunteers from Thomaston High School. Jennifer offered to talk to the acting teacher, Mrs. Wright, once school begins to find out what sort of help they might be willing to give this year. Also, Tina mentioned that the new Priest at St. Thomas would like to get more involved in Light Up this year and would like to have something fun to offer on the Church Green during the event. Lauren suggested we invite the Priest to an upcoming meeting to discuss options.

We ended the meeting by discussing the need to get together in September to organize/clean out the trailer. We also agreed to our next meeting date which will be on Wednesday, August 10th at 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Marano, Secretary