

# Warner Fall Foliage Festival

Annual Meeting

12/8/14, Warner Town Hall

- Board Members in attendance: Ron Bryson (member), Beck Bryson (farm and field), Adam Bates (president), Joan Saunders (vice-president), Chandra Chiasson (treasurer), Cassandra Place (crafts coordinator), Amber Dubois (bookkeeper)
- Town Members in attendance: Nancy Ladd, Sherry Thomas, Ginger Marsh, Sarah Allen, Ben Dobrowski, Joanne Hinnendael, Kathy Carson, Faith Minton, Sarah McNeil, Tim Blagden, Michael Simon, David Chmielecki, Beth Lukaitis,, and Ralph Elwell
- Adam opened the meeting at 7:05pm, and began with the financial statements. Amber talked about the number on the bottom line \$10,000. This does not include some payments that are still outstanding. Amber declared that \$6,000 would be the profit number we go off of.
- Joanne expressed her concern with the "rainy day fund". The total there was supposed to be in the CD has always been \$35,000 and is currently \$25,000. She is worried that if we had three days of bad weather on the weekend of the Festival that we wouldn't have the means to cover all our bills.
- The advertising dilemma that was sent through email had been resolved. Shandi took care of it right away.
- Joan mentioned that Barbara Lassonde (our advertising person) wanted to take a look into some more paper ads for next year. This would increase the advertising expense by \$400-\$500.
- Adam made a motion to accept the financial report. Joan second it. Motion was passed unanimously.
- Joan went into some detail about the Big Food Tent and some talk about what to do with it. Faith also added that she had worked in the BFT for many year and its always a struggle (volunteers, the amount of food, etc.). She thought that it was a little hidden this year and could have had more signage to direct people down there.
- Joan also made mention that there are 52 other events that are happening in New Hampshire and how the festival used to be on the 1st weekend of October. Some of the members recall having it on that weekend but didn't say whether the crowd was any different. The members that had been in attendance at that time didn't say it was any different.
- Joan asked how everyone liked the addition to the small handicap bus this year. Comments were that it was helpful however the bus driver didn't necessarily know where the

handicap parking was. They also mentioned that a large sign could be added to the back of the bus to help with any confusion.

- Beth commented on the parking and said that she has already made additions and improvements to how she will be running things for next year. Beth will also have a few other people helping her with the volunteer coordinator position to help with the work load that position deals with.

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- Joan read over the funding request so that everyone knew who had submitted and how much they were looking for for their specific projects:
  - Tim Blagden talked about the Parks and Recreation funding request that had been submitted: The project is connect I89 to downtown Warner and then Riverside to Bagley. This is a long continuous project that will take many years to complete. Asking for \$1,000
  - David talked about the Pillsbury Free Library funding request. They are looking for 2 google Chromebooks, as well as a Blue-Ray DVD player which would upgrade their existing DVD player which is from 1990. The Google Chromebooks would aid in the technology era and help people who do not have access to computer or technology to learn how to navigate them. They would have the capability to be loaned out if need be. Asking for \$800
  - Faith spoke about the MainStreet Warner Inc request. They are looking for a new Video Projection System for the MainStreet Warner Stage in the amphitheater of the Jim Mitchell Community Park. This projections system would allow them to show free movies and help public performances that require visual effects. Asking for \$2,000
  - There were no other representatives for the other funding requests so Joan went through and read them off and how much they were looking for:
  - Kearsarge Elderly Housing/Community Action Program is requesting funds for an AED Defibrillator for their community room at the location (27 North Road) which is home to 36 residents. Asking for \$1,250
  - Kearsarge Regional High School Dance Team is asking for money for shirts. The group is non-funded by the school. They have to raise money on their own. These shirts are for performances for the school and community. Asking for \$800
  - Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program put in a funding request for 1-2 shelving units for the food pantry room at the CAP building. This would help with storage and organization for them and the room. Asking for \$200
  - PTO asked for funding for a new bike rack. This would be replacing the bike rack that already exist and has been there for quite some time. Asking for \$400

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- How do we choose which one to give money to? Operational Project vs Project? Ideas were thrown out there for some discussion.
  - It was stated that on the funding request form, it says you must be present at the annual meeting to talk about your request.
  - Beck made a motion to allocate \$1,000 of our profit towards the funding requests and the remainder of \$5,000 be put back into the "rainy day fund" for the future of the Festival. Adam second it. The vote was 3 to 4 as no being the final vote on the motion.
  - Joan made a motion to allocate \$3,000 of the profit towards the funding requests. and the remainder of \$3,000 be put back into the "rainy day fund" for the future of the Festival. Cassandra second it. The vote was 4 to 3 as yes being the final vote for this motion (majority).
  - Joanne made a motion to allocate the following:  
\$400 PTO, \$800 Library, \$500 MainStreet Warner Inc, \$500 Dance Team, \$600 Rail Trail, \$200 CAP
  - Michael made a motion to amend the previous motion to:  
\$800 Library, \$500 MainStreet Warner Inc, \$500 Dance Team, \$1,000 Rail Trail, \$200 CAP
  - Sarah M. second it. Vote was unanimous on the amendment.
  - Sarah A. Made a motion to amend the the motion to:  
\$800 Library, \$600 MainStreet Warner Inc, \$400 Dance Team, \$1,000 Rail Trail, \$200 CAP  
(Moved \$100 from the Dance Team to MainStreet Warner Inc)
  - Sherry second it. Amended vote was unanimous.
  - Final vote on the last motion of: \$800 Library, \$600 MainStreet Warner Inc, \$400 Dance Team, \$1,000 Rail Trail, \$200 CAP. Vote was unanimous.

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- Nancy requested that minutes be passed around to as many people in town as possible to help stir up ideas and possible extra help with next years festival. Chandra will be emailing Nancy and Jim Bingham at the Town Hall minutes along with anyone that wants to see them.
  - As of 8:45, the meeting for the public was adjourned and the Board was left to discuss their status on the board. The individuals who wanted to participate in next years board stayed to allow voting to take place.

- Adam discussed that he will not be able to have the time and energy to be the President this coming year and would like to step away from the board altogether. He would still love to help and be a part of the Festival but not in the manor in which he was needed last year.
- Joan, as Vice President, has said she would take on the role of President as the Ascending position. She let everyone be aware of her scheduling conflict for that weekend. She also mentioned that Adam had some contacts that he may want to keep to help with the smooth transition. Adam made the motion for Joan to become the President, Chandra second it, vote was unanimous.
- Joan then made mention that her and Beck had talked about Beck becoming the Vice President. Joan made the motion to make Beck the Vice President. Ron second it. Vote was unanimous.
- Chandra said she would step out of Treasurer and into Secretary where Shandi has removed herself from the board. Joan made a motion to accept Chandra as secretary, Adam Second it, vote was unanimous.
- Joan made the motion to appoint Ginger Marsh as our new Treasurer. Ginger has much experience with the festival and has vast knowledge of all the behind the scenes work that goes into making it happen. Beck second it, vote was unanimous.
- Joan made a motion to have Ben Dobrowski as the new entertainment coordinator (taking over for April). Ben has been heavily involved with the entertainment for a few years and it will be a smooth transition. Beck second it, vote was unanimous.
- Joan made the motion to reinstate Beth Lukaitis as the volunteer coordinator. Beth's one request was to have help for next year where it's a very in depth job. Beck second it, vote was unanimous. She will also be a voting member this year on the board.
- Tim Blagden volunteered his wife Kristen Riley to join as a member to the board. (Even though Kristen was not present, Tim explained to her that this to be a 3 year term and how much work it could potentially be. Kristen agreed to it all.) Adam made a motion for Kristen to become a member, Joan second it, vote was unanimous.
- It was made mention that January 12th at 7pm at Sugar River Bank community room will be our next board member meeting. Following that meeting will be a town-wide meeting to help feed ideas about the festival on January 26th at 7pm at the town hall.

Adam made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm, Joan second it, vote was unanimous.

Sincerely,

Chandra Chiasson

Secretary