

# WFFF Minutes – Special meeting

*Main Street Bookends 7/25/2016*

Board Members Present: Ray Martin, Ginger Marsh, Ron Bryson, Bec Bryson, Mike Marty, Kristen Riley, Beth Lukaitis, Ben Dobrowski, Keegan Mattice, Patrick McGowan, Joan Saunders, Cassandra Place.

Approximately 20 town members present.

## **Agenda**

Per the bylaws of the Warner Fall Foliage Festival, the board cannot authorize capital expenditure of more than \$2500. This meeting is to request approval for capital expenditures needed to move festival events back toward Main Street.

### **Discussion regarding proposed location of the Foliage Festival woodsmen's contest and oxen pull.**

- Per the bylaws of the festival the board cannot authorize capital expenditure of more than \$2500.
- Ray Martin has met with school representatives. He has obtained approval from the school to use all paved areas, sidewalk and the pea-stone bus road. Potential light use of the field for picnic tables was discussed. Festival will not ever be able to hold oxen, woodsmen's contest on that field.
- Ray approached Ron and Deb Moore, who own land behind Foothills. Ron Moore has given the go ahead to open up their land and provide a flat place for oxen and woodsmen. They are willing to give a permanent right of way usage for the purposes of parking and use for the festival. This right of way will be written into the deed for that property. Ron Moore has contacted his lawyer and will pay for the legal work. Footprint to be bound by stone walls on the right and rear of the property.
- Peter and Adam Bates have bid to do the construction part, and work with town to fix drainage between the field and the school lot. Chuck Rose is ready to do cutting and stumping when work is approved.
- Benefits: A permanent place for Festival. One-way Main Street during the event. Insurance is no additional cost for Festival, we will need to add Ron Moore as additional insured on the existing festival policy.
- Ray will negotiate with selectmen to get gravel from the town pit so it will not be part of the Weaver Bros expense.
- Peter Bates agreed to give a discount due to local benefits.
- WFFF board has a rainy day fund. In the past, the board required at least \$7K to start the festival in order to run ticket booths. Now this startup money is not needed up front due to Miller taking over the ticket sales and settling up after the event. The board still needs additional funds up front to cover advertising, brochures, etc., and to recover from a complete bust. Some of this money comes from sponsors and other town donations.
- Expectation is to have the lobster and chicken tent back up along the road, on pavement. Sand to hold tents down. Kearsarge Mountain Road would be used as well.

- Warner Power changed hands from last year to this year. They will not shut down for Friday for the festival to set up rides. They will allow parking during the festival. We will continue to charge for cars parked there.
- The board requests a vote to spend up to \$25,000 for capital improvements over time in order to bring the festival back up and create the new permanent area that could also be of use to the town as a gravel parking lot.
- Richard Cook asked how much is in the rainy day fund. Ray said a little over \$22K.
- Rebecca Courser asked how the oxen and others would get into the land. Ray indicated they would turn at the pharmacy and go up that driveway. Due to the tight turns, this will require police in the morning and to exit the area.
- The board will submit an application for the one-way Main Street setup during festival weekend.
- Darryl Parker asked how the space would be used the rest of the year. Ray said that Ron Moore has indicated to Ray it could be used for parking, with some space reserved for his tenants. Essentially, a town parking lot to be used for any business.
- Jerry Marsh asked how many acres. Approximately 1 acre.
- Drainage to connect into the town system. Currently there are issues in that area; this would resolve the current issues. Alan Brown indicated that the town system could handle all the runoff coming from the area.
- Peter Bates said he was asked to give a budgetary number for the earthwork. Originally \$29K. He gave a 10% discount and is willing to accept money over time. If festival is going to survive we need to change the format we have now. We need to come back up onto Main Street.
- Alan Brown said oxen pull and woodsmen are a big draw for the festival, can't let this just go away.
- Joan indicated that there will be adjustment in terms of venue and vendors no matter what. The pieces always change somewhat. We need to consider if we can pull Festival into a central event again. There are 52 events on Columbus Day weekend in the state of NH.
- Katherine Nevins indicated this feels like it will bring the festival back to life, it's really the spirit of Warner.
- Kathy Carson asked about the payback plan. Are we expecting that this will be in lieu of fundraising requests? Ray indicated that historically festival money funded the original fire station in town, it has been a cooperative effort. This would certainly limit any funds available to Festival.
- Show of hands:  
In favor of proposal: 30. Proposal passed.
- Board to have short meeting to start the process.

#### **Board meeting.**

- Ray called for a vote to authorize us to go ahead with the project.

- Plan is to move Chuck Rose in to cut the trees. He will take out the wood and stumps, and chip them up. He will take the wood in exchange.
- Peter Bates and team to follow.
- Joan questioned, is there any chance of ledge? Ray indicated Alan Brown had investigated it in the past and indicated no ledge. Used to be hay field at one time.
- Is the board liable for any issues? No, we have board insurance for this purpose.
- Monday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am in Sugar River Bank Ray is meeting with the lawyers. Other board members are welcome to attend.
- Peter would like to get the work done before school starts.
- Ron and Deb Moore didn't come to this meeting because they were out of town.
- There are no plans for any vendor exchange due to this project. All monies given to the festival are donations to the event, and the source of our ability to continue to have Festival.
- Beth made the motion to vote, Ben second. 13 in favor, one opposed. Motion passed.

Ray made a motion to end the meeting. Beth second. All in favor. Meeting ended at 7:51pm.

Next board meeting will be Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00pm at Sugar River Bank.