

Town of Winchendon  
Winchendon Parks and Recreation Commission  
August 20, 2024 Minutes 6:30PM  
WCP Barn, 51 Ingleside Dr. Winchendon

**6:33 pm Call to Order**

**Members in attendance:**

Shaina Cunningham (Coordinator), Deb Bradley (Chair), Dawn Higgins (Vice Chair), Dylan Romanowski, Deb Kane, Jennifer Phelps, Brian Croteau (Town Representative), Melanie Franklin (Secretary)

**Absent Members:**

Emily Bradley

**Coordinator's Report 6:30**

- **Action Points update**

- Due to Moana being rained out, the commission has access to 1 more movie and Shaina suggested using that to show a movie at the Haunted Trails event. This will require a minimal fee to change the title.
  - Dylan R. made a motion to change the movie title and show a movie at the haunted trails event in October.
  - Dawn 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - All approved, motion passes.
- Family is Life requested that we partner with them to hold themed "Sunset Socials" from May-October every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 6-10 pm.
- Sponsorship packages were discussed. We currently have a tiered system where Sponsors can choose an amount to sponsor us for. We also discussed the possibility of having people/companies sponsor certain bands if they should desire to do so.
- Our first Commission Meet and Greet will take place on August 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7 at the Senior Center.
- There will be a Debrief meeting with the 2024 Ren Faire participants on September 5<sup>th</sup> which will be solutions based to help map out and prepare to make the next faire even better. The focus of this meeting is to discuss what was good and what we can do better next year.
  - Jennifer suggested sending an additional email out to the people involved to turn in any questions ahead of time to help streamline the discussion and save time.
- Anderson Daniels Concert/Touch a Truck event.
  - Volunteers are needed

- Dylan asked if it would be possible to do a cut up and roll over because he went to another touch a truck event where they did that and it was a big hit! Brian said he would have to check with the Fire Dept.
- Brian will need to bring the portable lights over so that the Touch a Truck won't be done in the dark.
- Wachusett is scheduled as the beer vendor for this event.
- CAC/Kiwanis will be selling hot dogs.
- Renaissance Faire Date
  - Debra Bradley suggested that we move the Ren Faire to June 21, 22 as there is better weather and it gives more opportunity for other related events to be held due to the ground not being as wet as it is in April.
  - A suggestion was made to have the faire going a bit later so that there could be some adult content later on in the evening (ie. kilt contest etc.)
  - Camping could be offered to the vendors as a part of a package deal and the first 50 attendees who sign up at \$175 for Saturday Night.
  - A shower truck could be set up in the soccer field and the vendors could pay for a shower package as well
  - Due to the increase in amenities the cost for vendors would increase to \$200-225
    - Deb K. made a motion to change the date for the Ren Faire to June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Jennifer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
    - Dylan (Y), Deb B. (Y), Melanie (Y), Deb K. (Y), Jennifer (Y), Dawn (Abstained)
    - Motion passes.
- Brian requested that since we are working on building the calendar for 2025 that all members come to the next meeting with a few ideas each to present to the commission for events we would like to hold next year. Then we can deliberate and decide what we would like to do.

## **Barn Organization**

- The commission went through the barn and mapped out what all needed to be disposed of and got a better idea of how we would like to organize the supplies we have for seasonal events and regular supplies that is needed for regular events. There are volunteers coming in on Thursday to help clean out the barn and implement these plans.

## **New Business**

- **Fae Guild Proposal**
  - The Fae Guild was planning to pitch the idea of moving the Ren Faire to June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, however due to the commission already making a motion to move the event, they did not need to

pitch the idea. They instead reiterated the many reasons changing the event is a great move, shared some other opportunities and helped to build excitement for the coming years as we continue to grow this event.

- They spoke with a company about Jousting. Est. cost would be \$5,000 for 2 horse Jousting. 2 horse jousting will work better than 4 horse jousting in our venue due to the size of the soccer field. Also, having the event in June will give the ground time to solidify after the winter thaw which will make for a better venue for the horses to be working on.
- Richard Fahey has published a blog talking about both the Wyndonshire faire and the Enchanted Orchard Faire which will help with publicizing the events.
- Having the event on the summer solstice also opens up “solstice appeal”
- The plan for this year is to keep the same story as last year and then in the following years, the story will be enhanced and both fairs will feed off of each other. The goal would be to weave the two worlds together and both fairs stories will intertwine with each other. This will also help to build the commissions relationship with the Red Apple Farm and help build that cooperative relationship with them.
- Meetings for the cast and crew etc. were mentioned by the Fae guild and we let them know that a Ren Faire Subcommittee will be created and will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays each month.
  - Infrastructure will be built first so that we have a solid foundation on which to build the faire—the meeting on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> will be a key in helping guide this.
  - In the subcommittee, roles will be assigned to the participants so that responsibilities can be shared. There will need to be check in meetings for all of those holding roles so that everyone is on the same page and communication is facilitated. Brian suggested that Zoom would be a good platform for this.
- Fae guild will start pushing the save the date out now that a date has been chosen
- Full access to the Senior Center has been made available for meetings and practices.

## **Adjournment**

Dylan R. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41.

Jennifer 2<sup>nd</sup>

All approved. Motion carried.