

Meeting opened at 5:36pm

Present: Jean Ryan, Marilyn Fehrenbach, Mary Thibeault, Kathy Bagley, Pat Rinaldi, Marlene Desjardins, Martin Walsh, Harry Lichtenbaum, Margaret MacDonough, Dr. William McDermott

**Public Comment:**

Historian Bill McDermott spoke about his book on the first 150 years of Wethersfield's history 1634-1790, written for the general reader. He donated 20 copies of his book to be sold with all proceeds to go toward the parade. The books will sell for \$19.95. A motion to accept the donation and sale of the books as a parade fund raiser was made by Paul Courchaine and seconded by Martin Walsh, and passed unanimously.

The budget document was presented to the group with explanation of all sources of income, donations, and expenditures, including the money transferred to the committee from the account previously budgeted for the Committee on Culture and the Arts.

Paul Courchaine updated the committee on the Parade: Parade will be held Sunday, September 27, 2009, beginning at 1pm, and the route will travel through Old Wethersfield beginning at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The tentative budget set for the parade is \$12,200 to \$15,200 including 10 – 12 bands, police costs, Physical Services staff, port-o-lets, etc. The route has been set with the Police Department. The parade date also coincides with the opening weekend of Scarecrows on Main Street. Parade Committee meeting are now set for 7:30pm, following the general committee meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month in case any members would like to stay and attend. The Green Committee will conduct a "greenest" float contest themselves at the parade.

Fireworks were discussed. Difficulties are: cost, involvement of the Coast Guard if a show is held at the Cove, DOT, DEP, State Police costs, proximity to Brainard Airport. Kathy presented a tentative budget and the committee discussed whether we should have a fireworks event. Martin stated that this is an important anniversary and he'd like to see it celebrated in a fitting way. Marlene suggested there may be grants for town celebrations that Rae Ann Palmer may know about. There was discussion to eliminate the fireworks and put more of the committee's financial resources toward a larger and better parade...including a reception for dignitaries and volunteers following the parade possibly at the Solomon Welles House. The idea to have a concert at Cove Park instead of the fireworks was brought up. The possibility of combining our funds with a neighboring town to piggyback with them for a fireworks show was discussed. Paul Courchaine made a motion to not have fireworks, seconded by Harry Lichtenbaum. Discussion by Martin that he'd still like to have a fireworks show. Motion passed.

Paul Courchaine made a motion to pursue a concert event and enlist someone to head up this event to be held at Cove Park at the end of August. Second by Harry Lichtenbaum. Voted unanimously. Harry Lichtenbaum offered to take this on and will work with Mary Thibeault.

Kathy Bagley said that a group was looking to do a concert sponsored by the Evangelical Free Church on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The possible Antique Car show is still something the committee would like to do and would like Chris T. to work with Jim Schroll to see if this can happen.

Fundraising: Marlene had Wethersfield 375<sup>th</sup> “flags” donated by her printer. These will be for sale in local businesses for \$1.00 each to be signed and put up in the business as people show support for the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Marlene Desjardins will coordinate the next round of sportswear orders and order forms should be available by the middle of May at Town Hall, the Community Center and the Keeney Memorial Center.

Art Walk on Main Street will be May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 4pm with a rain date of May 16. 20 Shops will be involved, showing art from all local artists. These works will be for sale. A reception is planned at J. Michael’s Restaurant. The art will be on display and sale in the shops through the end of May.

Wethersfield Home Garden Club will be having a garden tour on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 5pm. 7 homes will be featured. Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$15 the day of the tours.

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:48pm by Paul Courchaine and seconded by Marilyn Fehrenbach, voted unanimously.