

Swanzey Old Home Day Committee

February 13, 2012 meeting minutes

Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Old Home Day Committee. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Old Home Day 2012: Saturday, July 21

Co-chair Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Attendance Carol Faulkner, Joanne Stroshine, Maria Ettner, Ridgely Brown, Paula Shank, Walt Kowaliw, Chris Wood, Lisa Mango, Andrea Smith, Bill Carson (arrived 6:55), Victoria Reck Barlow; Lee Dunham (president, Old Homestead Association).

Minutes of January 9, 2012 meeting Motion by Barlow to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting. Second by Kowaliw. All in favor.

Brown and committee members reviewed current plans and areas of responsibility.

Brown said that she is calling past vendors directly to determine interest in participating in 2012, then sending registration forms. Brown said that some vendors may sign up, but elect to attend a different event on the day if they anticipate making more money.

"Summer in Swanzey" booklet Brown reported that the Committee now has a post office box to facilitate sales of ad space. Barlow will handle graphic design and print production, working towards a May deadline. Brown said that the Committee owes \$300 from the booklet account to the MRHS football program for the players' help in 2011.

Returning (or invited) in 2012

Roving Railroad; requesting Dan as driver

Fried dough vendor (unless they get a better offer)

Chicken fingers vendor

Barbecue vendor

Kona Ice

Deb's Grill, with kids' meals

Bike the Bridges (Brown said she will contact the tour leader)

Cemetery walk, led by Francis Faulkner

Mt Caesar hike (Members discussed clarifying the meeting location with the hike leader)

Bounce house and penguin toss (rental costs of \$250-\$300)

Not to undertake in 2012

50/50 raffle (profits were only \$37)

Vendor drop-off, logistics. Smith, Stroshine and Faulkner agreed to be in charge. Vendors will be directed to a designated drop-off area (indicated with large, professional signs) where they will unload their wares and tent; vendors will then move their vehicles to the parking area at MRHS. Vendors will receive these directions by mail in advance of the day. Volunteers in charge of vendors will be identified by a hat or name tag. Members discussed contacting George Blais, who volunteered hours of help in 2011 with laying out the vendor spaces. Members agreed that paint sticks (rather than chalk lines) are the best way to mark the vendor spaces.

Farmers market Members agreed that the 2012 farmers market will be located on the grass by the SAU building

Animals Members discussed the logistics of having all animals being located on the west side of Route 32, near the Potash Bowl. Animals may include alpacas (as in 2011) and young calves (on loan from Mike Johnson, as in 2011). Barlow said that 4 trained cattle—the oxen Ike and Bright, along with working steers Jesse and James—will be in residence to participate in “The Old Homestead,” as well as march in the parade. Deb Crowder may bring her trained goats, Meg and Beth, as she did in 2011. Carson expressed his opinion that it may be best to keep the pony rides near the other children’s activities on the east side of Route 32. Members agreed that it will be necessary for the group to tour the area for a better idea of how much and what kind of space is available near the Potash Bowl.

Making more use of the Potash Bowl area In addition to promoting the presence of the animals, members discussed using the Potash Bowl stage for presentations on Swanzey history during Old Home Day. Members discussed inviting Fritz Weatherbee to be a featured speaker. Barlow will contact WMUR when the invitation is firmed up. Members discussed inviting a KSC historian. Dunham offered to speak for an hour on Denman Thompson and the history of “The Old Homestead.”

Music Wood will contact the groups, and book the rental of a big PA system. Members agreed that the music won’t go past 3:00, with the last group beginning at 2:00. Booked for the last slot in 2011, Northern Stone will have the first choice of time slot in 2012. Members discussed whether the tented stage should be located in a different location, such as at the bottom of the hill near the high school, to create a natural amphitheater. Members discussed whether there should be an area for acoustic music. The American Legion band charges \$500 to march in the parade. The new Swanzey town band has eight members.

PA system volume Members agreed that was hard to hear the PA system in the children’s area in 2011.

Horseshoe tournament (new in 2012) Kowaliw agreed to research, consulting with members of the Keene league and looking for someone who would lend horseshoes and stakes.

Pie-eating contest Members agreed to purchase fewer pies than 2011. Members agreed that the event needed to be located in the children’s activity area to help make attendees aware that the contest was taking place.

Monadnock Interact student volunteers Stroshine will talk to the group via their advisor. Committee members discussed encouraging the students to sell coffee & pastries to vendors and the car show people during set-up, from 7:00 a.m to 9:00 a.m.

Balloons Members agreed that balloons were a nice touch in 2011, but agreed that members will be too busy with other responsibilities to have enough time to manage this as well. Members agreed that balloons were desirable if a volunteer could be in charge of inflating.

Shuttle Brown will call First Student to get the cost (service will not be free as it was in 2011), and possibly book. Committee members agreed that they lacked information on the level of use of the shuttle in 2011.

Parking: Members agreed that it will be necessary to station a volunteer at Town Hall to prevent use of the area as a parking lot.

Parade The parade will follow the 2011 route. Mango will be in charge. Rick Bauckman will attend the March meeting, and offers to help with the parade.

Oldest Swanzey citizen Carson will contact William Lambert (1189 Old Homestead Hwy), who was unable to participate in 2011 upon the recommendation of his doctor.

Next meeting Monday March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Adjournment 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Reck Barlow