

## Old Home Day Committee

### Monday, March 12, 2012 meeting minutes

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

Co-chair Habiby called the meeting to order at 6:34.

Attendance: Kathy Habiby, Ridgely Brown, Bill Carson, Maria Ettner, Patty Budzik, Heidi Bradbury, Victoria Barlow, Jane Johnson, Lisa Mango, Andrea Smith, Carol Faulkner, Chris Wood

Correction to February minutes: OHDC has \$300 in account with Old Homestead Association. A payment of \$100 to the high school football program still needs to be paid. **Motion** by Brown to accept minutes as amended. Second by Mango. All in favor.

Habiby reported that she and Brown had met with Lee Dunham (on behalf of the Old Homestead Association ) to discuss the Summer in Swanzey booklet. Proposed: OHDC will guarantee \$3,300 for “The Old Homestead” and summer concerts. Any income OHA members can generate from supporters will go directly to OHA. After discussion, **motion** by Barlow to support this proposal. Second by Johnson. All in favor except for Carson and Ettner. Motion passes.

Habiby reported that printing the booklet will cost about \$3300 for 3000 copies, so the OHDC will need to raise \$6500 to cover printing + guaranteed OHA support. Members discussed getting sponsorship of information pages in the booklet. Members discussed raising funds to enable purchase of supplies/rentals used each year – eg, purchase of a large tent to save the annual \$800 rental. Members discussed what to do with outside-Swanzey interest in booklet advertising. The group agreed not to solicit ads from outside businesses, but to accept ads from Swanzey residents who have businesses in other municipalities (possibly in a separate section of the booklet).

Johnson recommended including a page of information about Swanzey: phone numbers for churches, libraries, the Museum, or simply a listing of these organizations. Members discussed asking the Town to purchase an ad; possibly the Recreation Department would like to publicize its programs. Barlow will ask the Town Administrator how to proceed. Members set a target of each soliciting 10 community supporters – funds will help support the free children’s games and free Friday night concerts.

Habiby will talk to Susan about getting a listing of Old Home Day in Yankee Magazine’s calendar.

Members discussed how to get access to the Grange Hall, perhaps for showing cartoons, movies, and/or slides. Donations could be solicited. Barlow will ask the Town Administrator how to proceed. Members discussed asking the Historical Society to give a slide show. Smith said that Rich Cody has sent Bob Smith many old photos of Swanzey houses.

Members discussed budgets for various activities and events, and agreed to increase the budget for children's games from \$500 to \$700. Renting the big tent costs \$650, the musicians' stage cost \$240. Habiby will ask MRHS if we can borrow risers.

Members discussed parade expenses. The American Legion band cost \$550, and bagpiper Polifrone (who left immediately after the parade) cost \$200. The bagpiper from MA cost \$150, and stayed all day, wandering around the grounds. The Nelson Town Band costs \$350. **Motion** by Smith to budget \$1100 for parade bands. Second by ? All in favor.

Members discussed inviting all Scouts to march together, perhaps playing kazoos. Bradbury will talk to the Scouts. Carson said that Bob Audette will lead the Bike the Bridges group. Members discussed inviting the bicyclists to ride in the parade prior to biking the bridges. Carson said that he is working to get members of the equestrian club to march in the parade.

Members agreed that last year's quantity of portapotties appeared to be adequate. Members agreed that it is necessary to have a handicap accessible unit.

Members agreed that the first aid station will not be staffed with paid professionals.

The Cornerstone Baptist Church has offered people to help with children's games, parking, crowd control.

Members discussed PA systems, concluding that one system is necessary for announcing the parade and making general announcements; another system is necessary for music. Likely expense will be on the order of \$800 for equipment and operators.

Habiby reported that she is negotiating with Janet and Phil Warren from Alstead about having their draft horses & covered wagon for the parade and for docent-guided tours to the covered bridge and back.

Members discussed elements of this year's historical theme --what we are, why we are, how we came to be. Discussed was historical information in the *Summer in Swanzey* booklet, speakers at the Potash Bowl (including the Cheshire County Historical Society and perhaps Fritz Weatherbee); guided tours; an essay contest for all ages with prizes for the best essays about the history of particular places in Swanzey. Essays could be displayed at the Potash Bowl. The competition could be advertised in the Monadnock Shopper, and with posters at the schools and around town. After discussion, **motion** by Smith to support the concept of an essay contest, with prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25. Second by Carson. All in favor.

There were no subcommittee reports.

**Motion** by Woods at 8:04 to adjourn. Second by Smith. All in favor.

**Next meeting:** April 9

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Reck Barlow