

2020 Somersworth Christmas Parade Committee – Meeting Minutes

November 23rd, 2020 5:30pm

Somersworth City Hall – Council Chambers

In Attendance: Russ Timmons, City Councilor Nancie Cameron, Beth Poulin, Lindsey Gagnon, Liza Coco

Guest: Kristen Davenport from the Somersworth Rec Department

Meeting Called to Order 11/23/20 @ 5:30pm

The Town of Berwick does not currently have a new Rec Department staff member. Beth asked if Berwick would like to still be involved with the committee this year and felt that without a staff member they will not be able to assist or do its normal activities.

The ice sculpture will cost \$1,800 and the location of it for viewing was discussed. The discussion finalized with the front of the library to get more visibility versus a thought of having it at the Veterans Memorial Park and will be up by Saturday the 19th. The sculpture was discussed as being a festive scene with wreaths on the sides of it. Beth said that Chris is going to confirm the day for it to be ready and confirm a design. Beth is also going to see if we can place a sign on High Street to direct people to go down and see the ice sculpture.

Santa is not going to be in a parade style event but instead as a drive by style event. He will be set up in front of the middle school as part of the drive by event. The hope is to have some volunteers dressed up as elves to pass out large candy canes that Liza has purchased and keep the line moving. Those attending the drive by will be told not to leave their cars to not have crowds due to Covid precautions. The committee has some decoration to use around Santa but is looking to get some blowup decorations from the Recreation Department. Lindsey is also going to ask if the committee can borrow a sound system from either the Somersworth Housing Authority or for the Somersworth Festival Association to have background music playing as attendees drive by. Beth has purchased the Santa costume for \$100 so we can use it each year that it is needed as this year the Santa that we usually have attend is unavailable. Russ said he is willing to be Santa if no one else is able. The drive by will take place on December 13th from 12 to 2 pm.

Nancy picked up the Rudolph the red nose reindeer books required for the tree lighting with the mayor's storytelling and Beth, Liza, and Nancy were looking at options for where to buy the outfits the mayor and staff would like to wear while reading the stories. The mayor will video the storytelling and tree lighting by December 7th so that we can have the video broadcast on Channel 22 on December 9th at 6:00pm to view.

The Rec Department is ready with all of their required items and is waiting for our signage posters and so forth to be ready to have them all promotions go out on December 1st. Liza will be handing out the coloring sheets provided by the Rec at a school wide pick up to try to enhance participation.

Contests hosted by the Parade Committee will include a Best Christmas Tick Tock, Most Festive Wreath, and Cute Critters of Christmas. All entries are due by Dec 18th for voting and the winners will be finalized based on the Facebook votes/likes by Dec 21st. Beth will then mail the winners their prizes. Tick Tock contest will have 3 top winners receiving a \$75 gift card each. Wreath contest will have 1 winner of a

\$50 gift card to Wentworth Green House. Pet dress up contest winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Pet Supply of Somersworth. The Parade Committee is also going to purchase the gift cards for the 2 Rec Departments contests as well. The coloring contest will have 1 winner of a \$20 Visa gift card and the home decorating contest will have 4 winners with first place winning a \$100 Home Depot Gift Card, second place a \$75 Home Depot Gift Card, third place a \$50 Home Depot Gift Card, and a \$50 Home Depot gift card for a random contestant for just entering the contest. Lindsey is working on getting the Facebook events and contest info up and Beth is working on the posters and so forth and having them printed at Digital Ink.

Meeting adjourned 6:30pm

Next Meeting

Respectfully Submitted By:

Lindsey Gagnon