

At our follow up meeting June 23, 2015 we discussed what went well and what we might change for next year.

Discussed were the following:

Parade:

- Seemed to take a long time, moved very slowly and had large gaps between units. It was suggested that the Gym Dandies either be eliminated from the parade next year or be put at the very end as they required much space in front of and behind the unit.
- There were a large number of Little League participants which added to the length of the parade.
- The electric portable road sign was not available this year but should be used in advance next year to warn motorists that shore road would be closed for the parade. It was noted that there were some very upset drivers who could not get through.
- Having a parade marshal was a great idea and Norm Jordan was delighted and honored.

Stage:

- This added a very nice touch to the event. The only issue was the placement of the stage as the infield dirt seemed to be a deterrent to people sitting on the ground and watching close up.
- A concern about relocating the stage to the front of the outfield is the distance that the electrical cords would have to span and would most likely cause a power drop and outage. Look into this.

Casco Bay Wind Ensemble:

- This was a big hit! The only concern is that they had to set up on the infield and there was a large space between the audience and the orchestra due to the dirt infield. Once again the relocation may cause a power drop due to the length of the electrical cords.
- We definitely want to invite them back again next year.

The Petting zoo was a big hit and very busy all day. We definitely want them back again next year.

The Dog show was very well attended as usual and a "must do" again next year. The veterinary staff did a superb job running it with Karen.

Don Campbell:

- Everyone loved his music and his gracious manner. We definitely would like him back again next year.
- It was noted that the crowds had started to thin out by the time he performed so it was suggested that we have him perform earlier and advertise well ahead of the event.
- Frank will send out a thank you note to Don.

The inflatable obstacle course run by the courier:

- This was a big hit and was full all day. In addition, it was something the smaller kids could do and was only \$.50 which addressed the issue that Family Fun Day cost a lot to participate.

Fireworks:

- Everyone has heard nothing but positive comments about this.
- It was noted that the show was only 10 minutes long. I addressed this with the vendor and he apologized and said he would provide an additional \$1,000 of fireworks next year for free.
- The timing of the display should be pushed back to 9:15 or later to allow the gates to the fort to be closed and people to get situated.
- The location of the display was very convenient so as not to interrupt the daily visitors to the Fort as the fireworks were being loaded at 3:00 PM.
- However, it would be nice to have them closer to the parade field where the FFD event is taking place. It was a very nice touch to have the ensemble playing during the fireworks. We will look into the feasibility of relocating these next year.
- It would be nice to have a display utilizing larger rockets but the security concerns and cost will be a determinant.
- It is unclear if we should be fundraising for the fireworks again next year or rely upon our proposed budget. Frank will discuss this with the Town Manager.

The foaming finish fun run:

- This was a big hit as well.
- It would be preferable to have this closer to the parade ground for more visibility and participation.
- The foam cannon needs to be set up a bit higher than it was on top of Karen's car.
- We will need more volunteers as the numbers of participants increases.

Schedule and location of events:

- The fishing exhibition and the Community Services activity were totally out of the flow of activity and neither did very well.
- We should consider having a couple of large posters or marquis set up showing what is available and where, as well as the scheduled events.
- We should consider printing flyers and putting a supply at each booth.

End of day activities:

- It was suggested that we might want to shorten the day portion of the event till possibly 3:00 PM instead of 4:00 as the attendees are mostly gone by then.

The water balloon toss:

- This was the largest we have ever had. Steve Culver did a fantastic job running this. We definitely need to keep this going and highlight it.

Publicity:

- We need to begin publicizing the event well in advance of the date.
- The wind ensemble was terrific but we certainly could have had far more attendees than we did.
- The fireworks were the same.
- I believe that word of mouth from this year's attendees will be our best publicity for next year but we need to run an article and photos in the papers sooner than we have in past years.

Overall this was an excellent event and the best we have had in many years, and should be a real boost to the future of the event. Mother nature probably played the largest roll in bringing it all together as it was an absolutely picture perfect day. I think it really added to our Towns celebration of our 250th anniversary.