

Garland Days Committee

Minutes of the 3/21/23 Meeting

Present: Lynn Dumont, Shannon Hall, Sue Berryhill, Tony & Lanie Gamage, Amy & Bob Allen, Danielle Fogg, Veronica Otis, Cassie Fogg, Alexis Fogg, Dorene Adams, Ruthann Williams, Debbie Guilmain, Clara Lincoln, Yolanda Burrill, Kit Rodgers, Pam McKinnon, Michelle Gerard.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Lynn Dumont with brief words of welcome and introduction, and additional words by Shannon Hall about Garland Days and the hopes for this committee.

1. Garland Days cannot be held this year because of problems at the field: no electricity for the cook shack, no water at the field, and therefore no food prep. Shannon and Lynn, accompanied by Regina Fick of the Select Board, will go through the cook shack later in the year to survey the conditions. Per Regina, the town will look into the problems with the electricity in the spring.

Possible dates of 9/21 or 9/28 were proposed for 2024 Garland Days, voted on by show of hands - 12 votes for 9/21, no votes for 9/28.

Lynn emphasized the need for planning and fund-raising to begin now.

2. Lynn will begin sending out letters to potential donors in September, with Shannon and Sue reviewing the letters. Lynn read the list of businesses she intends to write, and Tractor Supply in Dover-Foxcroft, Bob's Furniture and Dysart's were suggested as additions to the list. The solicitation of corporate donors was approved by show of hands. Shannon emphasized the need to approach potential donors before the beginning of 2024. Tony Gamage reported that many of the large companies require applications to be completed for donation requests.

It was commented in the discussion of possible fund-raisers that bake sales are not doing well, as there seems to be some reluctance to purchase home-baked goods. However, crock-pot meals sell well, and could be easily combined with craft sales.

At the Selectmen's Board meeting tomorrow night, they will be asked if the Garland Days Committee can collect bottles and take to the Center St. redemption center to raise funds.

Discussion of the town Rec and Garland Days funds ensued. Garland Days Committee is under the Rec Department, and as of 3/17/23 had \$1014 in its fund. As of 2020 the Rec Committee account had \$1891. The Garland Days Committee can request a warrant for town funding at next year's Town Meeting. The amount required to fund Garland Days is uncertain, but in the past 500 books cost \$3.25 each (total \$1625). Ruthann reported that the last time she worked on Garland Days in 2013, the food cost was between \$3000 and \$4000.