

## **Metuchen Parade Commission**

Monday, September 12, 2022

Attendees: Maggy Cook, John Gaven, Rob Giegerich, Bernie Hetzel, Terry Kohl, Ellen Regan and Wendi Richards

### **Minutes**

#### **July Minutes**

- Bernie made a motion to approve the July minutes, commission agreed.

#### **Winter Festival Parade**

##### **Theme**

- Commission agreed to Making Spirits Bright for this year's theme.

##### **Logistics**

- Confirmed the Parade route should be the same as the Memorial Day parade, starting at the Halsey Lot and concluding at the Plaza. Noted that Main Street should be closed beginning at Amboy Avenue to allow for staging, specifically the MHS band and the fire trucks.
  - Ellen will confirm this route with the Metuchen Police Department.
- Wendi will reach out to the DPW to confirm the date and the need for the staging areas. She will request the Plaza stage be set like the Lonesome Pines show.
  - Bernie shared that he should have leftover decorations for the reviewing stand at Cai's.
- Commission's preference is to investigate other ways to transport Santa and Mrs. Claus, especially since many of the decorations used on last year's flatbed were broken.
  - Rob will reach out to the fire department about using Unit 9.
  - John will contact the new couple in town who offered to participate as Santa and Mrs. Claus, asking if they have transportation ideas.
  - Wendi asked Lorraine from the Bank how to secure a horse and drawn carriage as another option to consider.
- Terry will secure Bob for the sound at Cai's and the Plaza.
- Bernie will ask Blue Parachute for sign holder ideas knowing we will need about 40 and they must be durable to reuse, but light enough to transport easily.
- John will reach out to Walter at the American Legion to give him a heads up on the plans for the day.
- All agreed that we will need more volunteers for the day of. Rob to ask Mr. Porowski for any students looking for volunteer hours.

##### **Participant Registration**

- As a line of precaution, we will only confirm registrations after they have been approved and vetted.
- Will target the week of October 17 to promote the registration.

##### **Publicity**

- Ellen will reach out to Brandon to request help promoting the event by creating graphics that can be used online and on the Main Street Banner.
- Bernie will contact Angela at Blue Parachute regarding the Main Street Banner, which will go up in late October/early November.
- Rob will ask the HS to promote on their sign as they have previously done.

**Entertainment**

- Commission agreed the more entertainment, the better.
- Ellen will confirm bagpipers, Mummers, Fred Lehotay, stilt walkers (2) and Dickens Carolers.
- Rob will contact Mr. Messenger about the MHS band.

**New Business**

- Per the ordinance, we need to submit a report to the Borough Council twice a year. Ellen will work on this and share with the commission for their input.
- Next meeting will be Monday, October 17 at 7:15 p.m.