



**Hollis Old Home Days**  
**Wild Salamander 6:30 pm**  
**7 October 2019**

**Voting Members Attendees:** Judy Mahoney; Nate Michaels; Anne Marie Tucciarone-Mahan; Holly Babcock; Cindy Arcieri; Barbara Kowalski; Laurie Miller

**Voting Members Absent:**

**Event Volunteer Attendees:** Honi Glover; Anna Birch; Victoria Harnish; Corinne Beaubien

**Selectmen's Representative Absent:** Frank Cadwell

**Guest:** Potential new committee members

The Old Home Days was called to order by Holly at 6:34.

Welcome

### **Secretary**

Anne Marie moved to accept the minutes of 9 September 2019 and Judy seconded the motion. Vote to accept was unanimous. The approved meeting minutes will be posted on the Hollis Town website

**Chair** Status Update – New committee members, Status Update & Lessons Learned

Holly gave a brief overview and History of OHDs. Stressed the importance of community event. Goal is to break even financially not necessarily make money. The event normally runs about \$29,000 to include the fireworks.

She described her and Nate's roles as Chair and Co-chair. She also briefed the vacancies going into next year: Secretary, Exhibitors, Heritage Demonstrators, and Website administrator. Corinne Beaubien volunteered to be the Chair next year. Holly is recommending that Publicity be more of a sub-committee with signage, social media, advertising falling under it.

Holly and Nate went to the Selectmen's meeting after the event. They explained the

status of the committee to include the number of vacancies. They also explained that the committee needed a lot more help from the town. The committee experienced the requirement to do town/state permits this year. It was felt that the town should help in processing required documentation.

The Committee felt that we needed much better communication with the selectmen.

In the past, the OHD Chair stored the OHD supplies, signs, documentation. Holly mentioned that the town should be providing storage for the committee. It should not be the responsibility of anyone on the committee to store OHD items.

She also explained to the Selectman that the date next year's event would conflict with Rosh Hashanah. The committee is recommending the dates be changed to 11-12 September.

**Treasurer** – Barbara reported that the event came very close to breaking even this year. All invoices may not have been received.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

#### **OHD Exhibitors**

- LL Comments: In most cases the committee tries not to duplicate food/exhibits so there isn't competition (especially among commercial exhibitors) but that confirmation is on a first come first serve basis based upon fee payment.
- Need to add that cancellation 2 weeks or less prior to event will result in forfeiture of fee.
- Discuss cost for electricity. When exhibitor has more than 1 (2, 3, or 4) spaces should they pay for electricity more than once. Cost should be determined as to how many electrical boxes they will be using.

#### **Parking/Bus**

- Need to revisit the need for a Shuttle Bus. It was not utilized this year. Very few riders. First year bus was not used. Second year we got the smaller bus and ridership was great. So this year we got a bigger bus. Need to evaluate the need. A Hay ride was suggested in lieu of the bus.
- Signage or the lack of was also an issue for the bus. Signs did not hold up well in the weather.
- We used the Knights of Columbus to direct parking. They were paid.
- It was mentioned that parking and driving on Orchard Drive was an issue this year. Safety of children was brought up. Perhaps signage would help.

#### **Website**

- LL Comments: See if we can hire Iris a client rather than a volunteer position.
- Under Exhibitor application – Type of organization – All Other organizations 1 or 2 days should be changed to read "All Other organizations Saturday only" and "All Other organizations Friday and Saturday"

Heritage Demonstrations – No issues. Placement of some of the demonstrators may be addressed next year. Need to decide before the 40 X 40 tent is reserved for them.

Sponsorship – Laurie discussed the sponsorship program. Very successful this year. She will re-think the category of Family/Small business. It did not yield any new revenue.

Artisan Market- KC will rework the application. Need cancellation policy included.

Silent Auction- Anna thanked Corinne for the help in setting up the data bases. Should be much easier next year. Will be looking for additional help with collecting donations, setting up etc.

Entertainment- Cindy was very happy with the way things went. She mentioned that the 30 min turnover was a little tight for some acts. Someone mentioned that it would be nice to have music down by the amusements. Most felt that that was not needed. KC asked if there could be a staging area set up behind the entertainment tent for acts getting ready or changing outfits. Currently the acts are using the Lawrence Barn and it is crowded with the Artisan Market and Silent Auction. Holly said that we are not using all the tents available to us that we should be able to get a 10 X 10 or 20 X 20.

Publicity – Victoria mentioned that the newspapers are not effective and expensive. She and Laurie will need to work together to find something else to offer the sponsors. Social media can and should play a bigger part of our publicity.

#### Planning & Logistics

- LL Comments - An idea our group had: we are wondering if it might be useful for OHD to provide a seating area for people to eat food (and potentially get out of the rain ☺). Perhaps even one area at the north end, and one at the south end of OHD. Just a thought. These areas don't need to be real big. For example, our BBQ ribs and wings are a bit hard to eat while standing up, and maybe folks eating the Boy Scouts sausage subs or other food at OHD might also benefit. We don't do the OHD chicken BBQ anymore, but maybe there is value to providing some fraction of the seating that the chicken BBQ used to provide.
- Holly's response - Thanks for the input. We had a picnic tent but should probably put some signs up for it. We had additional seating around the barn for resting and eating.
- It was recommended that a casual seating area be set up closer to the amusements for adults to hang out/ sit while children riding the rides.

Parade - We will need to find someone to announce the parade next year as Ann Marie will not be on the committee. Need much more signage. Need someone to direct tractors and antique cars etc. from the parade route to the inner field. Cannot enter at the barn and follow the track. Very dangerous.

Balloon Rides- Thank you Tara for recruiting volunteers to help out with the balloon.

OHD Booth - Reminder someone needs to pick up decorations for Entertainment tent and OHD booth.

Over 90's

- LL Comment - I really like the over 90's with the cookies; that is a really nice touch and think that should continue.
- Only 2-3 local residents stopped by for vouchers.
- Probably need to advertise more that vouchers are available to Hollis residents over 90.

Volunteer Coordinator

- Hollis Booster Club helped set up on Friday. Get asset.
- Need to find more jobs for them. Boy Scouts did a great job cleaning the field on Sunday.
- Need to get volunteers to pick up trash on Orchard Dive Sunday after event.

Dance

- LL Comment - Dance should be promoted as family dance. Willy should play kid songs for family dance fun for at least the first 1.5. For the remaining time he could, should, play for the teenage crowd. The whole night has turned into what we strived for, lots of families that are there with their young children
- Need more lighting in that area Friday and Saturday night

Misc. LL Comments -

- I also strongly believe the committee members should have shirts, more recognizable than the buttons.
- An idea I have about generating more volunteer both support could be to consider food vouchers for volunteering as well. Maybe consider eliminating the dance but continue with the music if it's not well attended.
- We need to look into the audio system. It's rather sad that when the Hollis Town Band plays the National Anthem and the scouts raise the flag, the only people who know that is happening is the people around the entertainment tent and a few booths (who truly don't stop).

The speakers are placed in the back of the tent, when Dave makes any announcements or introduces their songs, it's very difficult for the crowd to hear him. Also, any announcements from the Old Home Day tent, only go so far. A second microphone should always be available in the tent. Announcements need to be made prior to and sometimes during the parade.

Additional Comments

- Numerous guest attendees mentioned they would like to see the Chicken BBQ at next year's event. Holly mentioned that it could happen with the appropriate

manpower. The BBQ is very manpower intensive leading up to the event and during. In the past the BBQ barely broken even or lost money. Holly mentioned that it may need to be revamped to be more productive.

- Due to lack of resources the Hollis Women's Club did not have the Apple Pie contest. The Rotary was not able to run the Cow Patty Bingo. With early planning some other organization may want to take one these activities

Motion to adjourn was made by Anne Marie and seconded by Barb. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mahoney  
OHD Secretary