

PALMER COMMUNITY EVENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2007

Attendees:

Donna Collette
David Whitney
Paul Burns
Robert Haveles

Meeting was opened by Robert Haveles, Chair at 6:40 PM.

1.0 Minutes Approval: Minutes of 1-23-07 were approved as submitted.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 Bob H. presented a copy of the Community Ball and Benefit invitations and poster for this year's event, but noted that an invitation is not required to attend, but an RSVP is required. This event is open to all who would like to attend and to residents of all communities. The Community Ball and Benefit is sponsored by the PCEPC and the benefactor is the Quaboag Valley Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice.

2.2 The first draft of a list of Yearly Events was reviewed in more detail to finalize the anticipated events. The list below is based on events that have been historically and traditionally held within Palmer, as well as events that were held last year and are anticipated to become annual events, and new events added that would like to be explored and developed to be held in 2007.

Event	Status	Sponsor	Month Likely
Air Force Liberty Band / Community Concert <i>(Event held, capacity crowd at the PHS Auditorium)</i>	Feb 11 th	Peter Pappas	February (1 day)
Community Ball and Benefit <i>(Open invitation to all who would like to attend, Semi Formal Event, 2 Bands, 4 Course Meal, Champagne Fountain)</i>	March 10th	PCEPC	March (1 day)
Arbor Day <i>(With the number of trees that have had to be cut down because of their age or disease, it would be a great opportunity to re-plant trees to replace those in the tree belts that were removed. Possibly start Palmer's own tree farm for future tree replacement.)</i>	Considering	TBD	April 28th
Palmer Pride Day (Name Change?) <i>Last year, as Town Councilor, Bob H. had asked that the TC adopt the weekend before Memorial Day as Palmer Pride day for all the residents of Palmer to take pride in their community by cleaning up around their homes and property, lawns, sidewalks, landscaping, visual repairs as well as cleaning up public ways and places by picking up debris and placing them in specific collection bags. Thought was also given to that depending on how much is accomplished at Burleigh Park earlier in the season, that there may be additional focus required there as well.</i>	2 nd Year	TC/PCEPC/Residents	May 19-20th
Memorial Day Parade <i>(This is a well attended and very traditional event for the residents of Palmer.)</i>	Existing	Veterans Agent	May 28th

High School and Pathfinder Voc. Graduations	Existing	Schools	June 10 th
<i>(These are very much anticipated and traditional community events.)</i>			
Summer Daze	New	Unsure/ Being explored	July (TBD)
<i>(The basic concept of this event is to capture aspects of the summer time, with classic cars, 50 & 60's music (live bands, DJ, dancing, food, and outdoor large movie screen.) Note: This event is not to compete with Nostalgia Day for that full day event would still take place.</i>			
Railroad Days	New	PCEPC /RR Enthusiasts	August (1 day)
<i>(This event is to provide fun and educational railroad related activities celebrating the strong railroad heritage for which Palmer is associated and at one time depended on so heavily for transportation and commerce. It is thought this would be held in conjunction with other RR societies and organizations that may be visiting Palmer on a particular weekend in August. It is envisioned that this would be a full day of activities and would provide interests for all ages and may include blues and bluegrass music, however final selection in types of music have not been finalized.)</i>			
National Tuesday Night Out	New	PCEPC	1 st Tues in Aug
<i>(This is an evening set aside on a national level for each community to participate as a community in a themed event. Initial thoughts might be that this would be a fitness night with the residents of Palmer going for a walk)</i>			
Nostalgia Day	2 nd Year	PBP	Sept / TBD
<i>(This is a repeat event as a result of last year's success. This event provides music, various booths, fundraising opportunities, classic cars, food vendors, dunking booth and social interaction.)</i>			
Halloween Parades	Existing	FD and Legion	October /TBD
<i>(These have been a long standing tradition in Palmer.)</i>			
Veterans Day Parade	Existing	Veterans Agent	Nov 11
<i>(This event is an annual event and is moved from village to village each year.)</i>			
Holiday Concert	2 nd Year	Palmer Rotary	Dec (1 day) TBD
<i>(This seasonal concert was first sponsored last year and it was indicated that it would like to be a yearly event.)</i>			
Old Mill Pond Breakfast with Santa	Existing	OMP School	Dec (1 day) TBD
<i>(This has been a traditional event that the OMP PTO has held over the years.)</i>			
Tree Lighting Ceremony / TR Common	Existing	TR Chmb. Of Com.	Dec (1 day) TBD
<i>(This has been a traditional seasonal event held at the Three Rivers Common Gazebo with the lighting of the tree, singing carols and a visit by Santa)</i>			
Santa Train	Existing	PBP / Monson	Dec (1 day)
<i>(This has been a well received event that is a co-operative effort between the PBP and the Town of Monson providing free train rides with Santa. This is not limited to residents of Palmer and Monson. New England Central Railroad has provided significant donations of passenger cars and crew to make this possible. The Santa Train loading takes place in both Palmer and Monson with each community having its own activities. Last year, in Palmer, the Santa Train was expanded from previous years and included: Santa Train ride with Santa, appearance by Mrs. Claus, live music entertainment by musicians and chorus groups at the Steaming Tenders, a pancake breakfast at the Second Congregational Church, live radio broadcast by WARE Oldies, a free child identification program by the Masons, Children's stories read at the Library and ice carvings were scheduled, however unseasonably warm weather did not permit the ice carvings)</i>			

Festival of Trees

New

PCEPC

Dec (2 wks &
2 wknds)

(This is a new event for this year. This will be open to all entities to donate and decorate a tree based on a selected theme for that year. The trees would be displayed at the Palmer Library and possibly additional locations depending on the number of participants. This would run in conjunction with the Santa Train activities. The trees could be raffled off as a fundraiser. Similar events are held in Springfield and Wilbraham.)

Other yearly events to be inquired upon to see if they are held as a yearly event or not:

- Palmer Sports Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

Potential other events to be investigated:

- Photo Contest
- PHS Alumni Basketball Tournament *(Possibly sponsored by a class in the PHS as a class fundraiser.)*

3.0 New Business:

3.1 Fund Raiser:

3.1.1 There was a suggestion that possibly a railroad themed calendar of Palmer could be developed to raise funds for the PCEPC. There could be a teamed effort on this idea with Phil Opielowski. Bob H. has emailed Phil to see if their may be joint interest on this endeavor.

3.2 Photo Contest:

3.2.1 Robin Lamothe had mentioned to possibly sponsor a photo contest. Bob Haveles has emailed Robin to verify if this is something she was going to try and pursue. Wing Hospital and Country Bank were also considerations for sponsors of a photo contest.

3.3 Tourism Grant:

3.3.1 The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority is taking applications for Tourism Grants which are due March 1st. Bob H. and Robin will work with Alice Davey in submitting for this round of grants.

3.4 Concert scheduled in May:

3.4.1 The Southwest Missouri State University – SMSU Concert Chorale (This is an international touring group of approx. 53 members) to give a concert on Tuesday, May 22nd at the Second Congregational Church, Pleasant St. Palmer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next meetings have been established for March 20 and April 24th all to be held at the Palmer Public Library at 6:30 PM.

Recorded by: Robert Haveles