

PALMER COMMUNITY EVENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2007

Attendees:

Donna Collette
David Whitney
Robert Haveles
Cathy Les
Alice Davey
Julie Gromosky
Paul Dansereau

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

1.0 Minutes Approval: Minutes of 2-20-07 approved as submitted.

2.0 Old Business:

- 2.1 Bob H. and Cathy reported on the Community Ball and Benefit with the expectation of being able to make a donation to the Quaboag Valley Visiting Nurses and Hospice of approximately \$1000.00. That remains to be verified as not all of the invoices have been received. This is first year that the finances for this event have gone through the procedures of Town government. The PCEPC noted it was very appreciative of the Town Manager, Accountant and the Treasurer's extra efforts in assisting the PCEPC through the process, as it is all new to the PCEPC.
- 2.2 The list below was reviewed for the various events viability for the 2007 calendar year. Comments and updates on the events are noted in Red.

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
<i>Comment: Alice Davey reported that Dick K./ DPW Director mentioned that he would be in favor of planting new trees but would not replace the trees on the tree belts, they would need to go on individuals lawns. The tree belt trees have played havoc in locations with sewer connections. There was discussion about foundations that trees could be purchased from, however, it did not appear that this would be possible or be orchestrated for April 28th of this year. Alice will check more on availability of trees.</i>			

Palmer Pride Day (Name Change?) 2nd Year TC/PCEPC/Residents May 19-20th
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.
Comment: Additional names were considered but none officially adopted. A name will need to be selected prior to the May 2nd Council meeting at which time the PCEPC will be present to have the Town Council official adopt the weekend before Memorial Day as this special day or weekend. Name considered: Pick up Palmer Day; Beautify Palmer Day/Weekend; additional name thought of after the meeting – Pluck , Plant and Pretty Up Palmer Weekend Name must be selected at next meeting.

Memorial Day Parade Existing Veterans Agent May 28th
(This is a well attended and very traditional event for the residents of Palmer.)

High School and Pathfinder Voc. Graduations Existing Schools June 10th
(These are very much anticipated and traditional community events.)

Summer Daze New Unsure/ Being explored July (TBD)
(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.
Comment: Because there are many of the same facets to this event, maybe some of these could be rolled into the Nostalgia Day event. Bob H. to check with business owner in Bondsville who showed interest in spearheading an event there.

Railroad Days New PCEPC /RR Enthusiasts August (1 day)
(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.)
Comment: Need to confirm with Robin Lamothe if this might work with the Massachusetts Bay RR society's picnic, thought to in August. There was some discussion that this may be too ambitious and may too much with Nostalgia Day the next month. More discussion required.

National Tuesday Night Out New PCEPC 1st Tues in Aug
(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)
Comment: Need to decide the theme to adopt and have Town Council make announcement at their first meeting in August. Should have them discuss it prior for it be in the local papers. This is typically associated with public safety.

Nostalgia Day 2nd Year PBP Sept / TBD
(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.)
Comments: Paul Dansereau attended the meeting and updated the PCEPC on this years event. The date is September 15th. Additional kids attractions for various ages is being contemplated. Would like to involve the high school level more if possible. Ideas shared were: Trivia Contest between High School Classes, DJ; Knox Trail History display, Human Chess Board, possible beer garden.

Halloween Parades <i>(These have been a long standing tradition in Palmer.)</i>	Existing	FD and Legion	October /TBD
Veterans Day Parade <i>(This event is an annual event and is moved from village to village each year.)</i>	Existing	Veterans Agent	Nov 11
Holiday Concert <i>(This seasonal concert was first sponsored last year and it was indicated that it would like to be a yearly event.)</i>	2 nd Year	Palmer Rotary	Dec (1 day) TBD
Old Mill Pond Breakfast with Santa <i>(This has been a traditional event that the OMP PTO has held over the years.)</i>	Existing	OMP School	Dec (1 day) TBD
Tree Lighting Ceremony / TR Common <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>	Existing	TR Chmb. Of Com.	Dec (1 day) TBD
Santa Train <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>	Existing	PBP / Monson	Dec (1 day)
Festival of Trees <i>(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.)</i> <i>Comment: It was noted that the Library or Top Floor Learning is thinking of taking this event on. Donna Collette of the PCEPC is interested in sharing ideas and assisting on this event. Bob H. will put her in contact with Vickie Edwards to coordinate.</i>	New	PCEPC	Dec (2 wks & 2 wknds)

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 - OPEN

Potential other events to be investigated:

- Photo Contest – OPEN – Check with Robin Lamothe
- PHS Alumni Basketball Tournament (*Possibly sponsored by a class in the PHS as a class fundraiser.*)

2.3 Fund Raiser:

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.

Comment: Open for discussion - interested

2.4 Photo Contest:

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.

Comment: Open – needs to be confirmed

2.5 Tourism Grant:

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.

Comment: Nothing submitted

2.6 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.

3.0 New Business:

3.1 Hanging Flowers Promotion –

A blitz campaign will take place to solicit for sponsors of hanging flower pots for the cost of \$125.00 each. This includes watering and hanging of the flowers. Donna Collette, Alice Davey and Bob Haveles will coordinate between them to make a flyer, distribute and order the baskets. Normally the flowers are ordered in January. This year the plants will be installed in mid June. In future years, the plants will be up by Mothers Day.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

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

Recorded by: Robert Haveles