HOPKINTON RECREATON COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Present: Paul, Mark, Jim, Paula, Louise

Absent: Ann, Glenn, Flo

Meeting minutes from September 28th and October 26th2021 were approved as written.

It was discussed the need to assign 2 people to go to Veterans Wall to light the pumpkins on Halloween prior to trick or treating. Several committee members happen to swing by that evening to look at the display and discovered that the lights had not been turned on.

Jim shared with the committee an event in Leominster where the school created a Great Pumpkin Walk where children were given pumpkins to carve, the pumpkins were collected and distributed along a wooden trail with assigned numbers. The trail had been decorated with various Halloween items to create a haunting atmosphere. The community would attend in the evening, given flashlights to walk the trail to find the pumpkins and vote for their favorite pumpkins. We discussed the possibility of creating a similar event on the trails around the Houston Fields or at Kimball Cabins. Once the event is done the pumpkins could be transported to Veterans Wall for Halloween.

Paula informed the committee that she has sold out on the gingerbread house event December 4th. She had planned on 48 gingerbread houses. People will be assigned tables to allow for social distancing. Two teens have volunteered to assist with the event.

Breakfast with Santa will be December 11, 2021 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Following the breakfast Santa will stay an additional hour for pet photos. Each cat or dog will be given a special treat from Santa that the Ekstrom family put together. Due to Covid restrictions this year the breakfast will be an Elfin Grab & Go option and Santa will be sitting on a sleigh in the Houston barn for photos. His elves will be giving away craft bags that can be put together at home. HR Clough Oil Company is sponsoring the event this year. Thank you Blaine! The committee was disappointed that the Contoocook Chamber of Commerce announced that they were not going to honor their word not to have Santa during Starry Starry night which is one week prior the Breakfast with Santa fundraiser for Operation Christmas. It is expected that the number of families who attend that event will not be coming to the Breakfast which is going to effect the dollars raised to give to families in need for Christmas gifts.

February 26, 2022 will be the evening for the Murder Mystery Dinner that had to be postponed last year. The event will be held at the Slusser Center and planning is underway.

The committee spent some time discussing new ideas for events and fundraising opportunities. A few ideas involve more adult theme parties such as St. Patrick’s Day dance, winter luau with Polynesian dancers, ukulele performance, around Halloween we could hire a company to do a broom making craft or ghost tours. Still interest in doing a Halloween costume party. A spring fling was also mentioned. Jim & Mark know of families that have decorations that we may be able to borrow.

Paula informed the committee that the Turkey Trot was a huge success. $1,500 was raised for Operation Christmas and the food pantry. The Blue Moon hike was well attended.

Marilyn will be offering a Holiday centerpiece workshop on December 15th. Space is limited to 12 people.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The December meeting was postponed until January 4, 2022