

**Minutes**  
**Town Center Celebrations Committee**  
**January 12, 2022**  
**Art & Innovation Center & ZOOM (Hybrid)**  
**8:00 a.m.**



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Chair Dusty Rhodes called the meeting to order in person and via remote at 8:10 a.m.

Members present: Dusty Rhodes, Pamela Fox, Adrienne Giske, Stephen Wagner, Jean Arturi, Julie Johnstone, Ian Glover, Leslye Fligor, Nancy Piedra, Jeff Barz-Snell, and Sel. Laurie Bent.

Also present: Mary Beth Keene, Alanna Muldoon, Daniel Quinn, Town Manager Leon Gaumond, Asst. Town Manager Lisa Yanakakis

Town Manager Leon Gaumond offered to prepare minutes for the meeting.

Chair Rhodes suggested we meet every other week and offered to serve as the Treasurer. She wishes to use the Legacy Trail Trust/Weston 300 501 (c)3 non-profit to collect and expend donations.

Ms. Bent spoke to the date of the celebration currently scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Rhodes asked about individual visions for the event. A number of responses were offered:

- Mr. Wagner suggested a block party
- Mr. Gaumond suggested something that people can also walk away with something that commemorates the event.
- Ms. Fligor commented that the businesses should be involved and mentioned sidewalk sales, music and guided tours or fireworks.
- Ms. Keene mentioned performing arts.
- Mr. Glover would like to see a return to human interaction and an ongoing use of the site.
- Rev. Barz-Snell liked the idea of a block party with stations in the area as well as a Josiah Smith reenactor.
- Ms. Bent agreed with Mr. Glover and wants to celebrate the new common areas.
- Ms. Giske wants to see people happy upon the conclusion of all these projects.
- Mr. Quinn is hoping the event can provide something for all age groups as well as new residents.
- Ms. Muldoon represents Weston Media and wants to connect the Town residents with each other.
- Ms. Johnstone wants this event to be different than Spring Fling and liked the block party idea. She also looks to tie in the public and private schools.
- Ms. Piedra suggested something like a first night/block party with road closure and maybe a parade

There was a general discussion of some of the sites we want to incorporate. Sites identified are the JST, WAIC, cemetery tours, Fiske Law office, Golden Ball, JST garden, town center amenities, etc.

Ms. Rhodes mentioned constraints for the events. She mentioned that prom is the same night as well as concerns about weather and lighting if the event goes into the evening. She also offered to help prepare a budget for the event.

Mr. Glover offered to create a sharable document with all members to capture all the ideas raised at this meeting. Ms. Rhodes suggested several idea categories:

- Performance music
- Entertainment music
- Participatory art
- Display art
- Tours of new spaces
- Events for children

- Food & drink
- Exhibits
- Pyrotechnics

It was suggested that Richard DeVito might have a list of all town businesses. Ms. Fligor was asked to work with businesses and she agreed. It was also suggested that we should find a way to incorporate prom participants that day, such as a photo opportunity. Mr. Gaumond mentioned that this suggestion could offer dire consequences for the traffic and parking and should be carefully thought out.

Ms. Keene offered concerns about the scheduling of the event on behalf of the Friendly's Society, especially the evening of May 14<sup>th</sup> when they have a 7:30 p.m. performance. The problem is greater if the event is on May 15<sup>th</sup> when they have a performance mid-afternoon. Her concerns were noted by the group.

Ms. Rhodes asked the Town about a budget for this project. Mr. Gaumond informed the group that there was no appropriation from the town for this project but some costs may be able to be borne by the Town pending review and discussion with the Select Board and department managers. Ideas included overtime for first responders. It was also suggested we find a way to close the streets for the event. Ms. Rhodes suggested that a meeting with Police Fire & DPW be set up to talk about town issues for this event. Mr. Gaumond agreed to coordinate.

Ms. Fox suggested a photography contest including before & after photographs of aspects of town center.

Mr. Glover volunteered to assist in children programming.

Mr. Wagner volunteered to assist with tours, both inside and outside.

Mr Barz-Snell offered to coordinate with First Parish, of which he is the minister.

Ms. Fox volunteered to do tours of the inside of the Josiah Smith Tavern.

Ms. Rhodes offered to have her graphics team assist in the branding and logo development. She also is looking for a new CPA to do some financial/legal work. Her next concerns are in budgeting and fundraising.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon A. Gaumond Jr., Town Manager