December 11, 2025 Old Home Day Meeting Minutes

Meeting location: Fire House meeting room/Town Hall
& Google Meet

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Welcomed new member Kristina Crabb on Google Meet and a mention to Alan Gross who could not be there for this meeting.

Discussed our 2025 event. Most of the event went well. There were issues with the parade, not enough people to help get everything going with the volume of parade participants. The music was not well attended, barely anyone made it over to the Potash Bowl, everyone agrees that the music would do better if we found it a new location. Otherwise a very successful event with great feedback from attendees.

The next topic of discussion was the parade. We agreed that 8-10 people to help with the parade line up would make a huge difference in making the parade successful. Everyone will help find volunteers for that. This year we will be pushing for everyone to register online to try to make the day-of easier. We talked about what to do with day of participants who show up that have not registered and are not in the line up that gets created and agreed that it would make more sense to have them at the end and not try to put them into the parade wherever and really push that all registrants need to register and have waivers signed beforehand. For the groups that participate in the parade we talked about needing clarification on whether or not they have the head of the group sign the waiver on everyone's behalf or if all participants of the group need to sign waivers individually. Ashley Nash will look into that and get a definitive answer for the committee. This year Jojo would like help finding new groups, businesses and organizations to participate in the parade, so she will reach out to prior registrants and the committee will help look into getting new participants into the parade. We discussed when would be best to get registration open and it was decided Ashley N will get the MyRec system up and running by the end of next week. Discussed getting the PTO involved in the parade, Ashley N will talk to Ashlee C about getting her contact for them.

Live music was discussed, looking to get new music this year with the possibility of having Shana Stack back with her band. Ashley N has already contacted the Boom Box band and is waiting to hear back on if they are available for the date. Ashley N suggested getting in contact with the Old Homestead Association and coordinating with them as they do the Band at the Bowl all summer long and have the contacts for some of the popular bands in town, Ann volunteered to reach out to them. Kristina

suggested getting in contact with the library as they have a children's musician that may be a good option to make it more family friendly music. Ashley N to see if we can rearrange where things are to have the music in a new, more high traffic area.

Ashley N listed our day of entertainment from last year; Warren Farm wagon rides, Keene Axe House axe throwing and New England Party Animals. It was agreed by all to have them all back again for the 2026 event. Ashley N has already contacted them and has us penciled in with everyone for the date of the event. New entertainment was discussed. Doug the Devil Stick Man is back in town, however some of the committee members feel he may not be well received so it is undetermined if we will have him back (he was there for our 2024 event). Ashley N to talk to Kendra from New England Party Animals, everyone loved the animals and pony rides however for the pony rides they started them under a canopy and most of the kids had to duck when they were ridden out from under it and that doesn't seem very safe. We discussed having the car show back and it was unanimously agreed that we should bring it back. Ashley N to talk to Ashlee C to see if she has a contact for the people who have organized it in the past. Also Ann suggested getting in contact with Keith Bell as he is involved with a lot of antique car things, as well as potentially getting car dealerships involved for sponsoring. Ashley N asked about having the Civil War reenactment back, there wasn't really any agreement made, just that Ashley will reach out to see if they are even available.

For the vendor area this year, we discussed opening that registration as soon as possible as well. Ann will contact long time vendor Linda Hagg as she does not get online to register, and mentioned that Dawn Zipp and Joan Hagar did not get placed together as requested so Ashley N made a note to make sure they are together for 2026. Ashley N discussed wanting to change the vendor registration this year for registrants to be required to include what their booth is for or selling in order to provide the best set up possible. Ashley brought up that we had previously discussed raising the fee for 2026 as the pricing is much cheaper than everywhere else so it was voted on and unanimously agreed to raise the fee to $30 this year. Vicki suggested sending out a survey to all 2025 vendor participants to get their feedback on what is or isn't working for vendors. Ashley N will create a survey and email it out.

Food vendors for the 2026 event, Ashley N will contact 2025 participants to see if they will join us again for 2026. We discussed getting new food trucks to add more variety to what is currently being offered. Ashley suggested Mama Marias Gyros, Kristina will contact as she knows the owner. Ann suggested going onto the Facebook page of Food Trucks of New England and posting our event on there to see if there is anyone who would be interested, Ashley N will do that under the Recreation page. Jojo

suggested Matt Lilly, a restaurant owner in Westmoreland and will contact. We also discussed the new pizza place Jimmy's Hometown Pizzeria, Ashley N to contact.

Bike the Bridges, the Cemetery Walk, Mt Caesar Hike, Library Book Sale and Church breakfast are all planned to take place as usual for the 2026 event. Alan Gross will head Bike the Bridges, we will reach out to Lee for the cemetery walk and Bob McClure for the hike again, Ashley will contact the library to confirm the book sale and Jojo will reach out to the church to confirm the breakfast. Jojo will also reach out to the Grange committee to discuss their involvement.

Ashley N will reach out to book Elegant Settings for the 2026 event

Kids Zone was a hit, there were no negative reviews so we will continue with what we have been doing. Ashlee C will add a couple new games for 2026. Ashley N will contact Dazzle Days face painting to have Danielle back.

Ashley N covered a few extra to do's, including getting new date stickers for the event banners from Silver Direct, new shirts for the committee this year as well as creating shirts to sell for the 2026 event. Kristinaa offered to make something as she has lots of experience with design and media so we look forward to seeing what she comes up with. Ashley N will include having an SAU facility member there for day of assistance in our facility use form. Ashley also suggested that this year for the pie eating contest we see if we can get some prizes donated and hopefully bring in more adult participants. We also discussed pushing for more sponsors this year to cover the costs of all of our event happenings, the committee looked over the sponsorship forms that Ashley N put together and thought it all looked good. Ann will create a letter to go with it and everyone will work on getting those sponsors. In addition to having the sponsors on all of our media and at the event we will put their logos on the back of the event shirts.

Meeting was called to end at 7:11pm