

**Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
July 7, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Kathy Strom (Council liaison), Bob Lyford, Bridget Hartman, Julie Stanish, Erin Kopelman, and Jean Carlson.

The committee reviewed the Community Relation Activities 2011 Report that Ann Wild had prepared at the request of the Town Council and made suggested changes.

Julie Stanish moved to approve the June 2, 2011, meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Bridget Hartman, and the minutes were approved.

The July 4th Parade and Picnic was a big success, with the only problem being that the food line for hot dogs and hamburgers moved too slowly. Approximately 800 people came. Our collection for Manna for their Summer Smart Sacks program for children was also successful.

The Neighborhood Watch Block Captains will be asked if they want to survey the Town for street lighting to see how well or not the current street lights are illuminating. Residents are also being asked to survey the Town and report to the Town how well or not the current street lights are illuminating.

In addition, Bob Lyford reported that there will be a Neighborhood Watch Safety meeting this fall at which one of the officers who patrols in Town will speak with residents.

Jean Carlson reported that the new middle school, originally set to be at the Colfield Recreation Center site, was then moved to Saul Road (the old Kensington Junior High site, with a park and a senior center now on the site).

In the fall, Chevy Chase Elementary School will start their mentor program again and will be looking for volunteers. Jean Carlson will obtain information about the program, and we will include in future editions of the Forecast.

Ann Wild reminded current committee members that they need to re-apply to serve on the committee next year. She also urged committee members to reach out to others they know who might be interested in serving on the committee.

At the request of the Town Council to show their appreciation to the Town's current and past year volunteers, the committee is planning a Pizza Party featuring Vace's Pizza, beer, and wine. This invitation will be only for past and present year volunteers and their guests. The event will be Friday night, September 16, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. There will be nametags showing the committee or board of each volunteer.

We discussed the following additional tentative activities for the coming year:

1. Oktoberfest: October 14, 2011. We will try to have a blind tasting of beers. (Bridget Hartman)
2. Turkey Trot: November 20, 2011 (Bridget Hartman)
3. Gift Drive: December (Cathy Wolf). Format this year will likely change.
4. Bingo with prizes: January 21 or 28. Bingo may require a gambling license. We suggest doing it in the winter with a professional caller in the Lawton Center social hall.
5. Square dancing: February 11 or 25 (Jean Carlson and Bob Lyford)
6. Chili Dinner: February 26, 2011
7. Bake Off: March 18 or 25, 2011. (Erin Kopelman)
8. Wine Reception and Art Show: April. This is an event to raise money for charity. This year we suggest supplying more information about how to contact the artist if you are interested in seeing more of their work. (Bridget Hartman to contact Katie Vita)
9. Round House Theatre night: Date to be determined. (Jean Carlson) Play selected was *Double Indemnity*.
10. July 4th Parade and Picnic: July.
11. Garden Tour: Every other year; next one in 2013.
12. Progressive Dinner: Every other year; next one in fall 2012.
13. Discussion and Desserts: Ideas are (1) master gardener for the spring; (2) a dog trainer; (3) have police officers come discuss crime in the town or identity theft; (4) Pizza and Politics in the spring in preparation for the coming elections.
14. Dinner Out Club (Julie Stanish)

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin L. Kopelman