

Town of Farmington
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 30, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Board Members Present:

Gerry Vachon, Chairman
Charlie King, Vice Chairman
Ann Titus
Doug Staples
Penny Morin

Others Present:

Ken Dickie, Town Administrator
Erica Rogers, Rec. Dept. Director

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Vachon called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Chaos & Kindness:

Mr. Vachon said tonight's meeting is for an update on the Chaos & Kindness/Recycled Percussion.

Rec. Dept Director Erica Rogers said she had some updates and the rest has still not been presented. She said what she knows is they are doing the show on Thursday, June 1 at the Henry Wilson Memorial School and it is limited to just the bleachers which is about 300 people. She said they are scaling it back from a full scale production to more of like a pep rally style in the gym because we don't have anywhere that's going to hold a large scale production. She said they went over so many venue options from FHS, to HWMS, to the Rec. Center, to the football field, to parking lots, to the 500 Club, to Paulson Rd. and they have exhausted every option. She said outside does not work for a lot of reasons and if it rains or the weather is bad they will not play so if we get to Thursday afternoon and they decide that then it's just canceled. She said a lot of the places for outside don't have the electrical output they are going to need and they did say at point that they could bring a generator if needed.

Mrs. Rogers said they were going to bring an 18-wheeler flatbed as their stage which couldn't go on the football field so logistically it just wouldn't work. Paulson Rd. is where we thought they would be able to use but where it is still under construction we can't house that kind of event down there so really the only option was the Henry Wilson School she said.

She said they could have used one of the 2 gyms as a full scale production but they would have had to cancel school and they would have needed all day to set up. She said they would have been coming in at 8 or 9 a.m. and because none of them are background checked and

fingerprinted they can't be in the school building with the kids and they can't just cancel school because they decided to show up that day. So them not being able to get in the building until after school is what really cut that production down because they don't have the set up time she said.

Mr. King asked what time it is starting.

Mrs. Rogers said as of right now, the doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the show will be at 7 p.m. and it will be about an hour long and that is all that she's gotten from them so far.

Mrs. Titus asked if they are coming to our town just to walk around.

Mrs. Rogers said that is a great question and she has asked that many times.

Mrs. Titus asked who her contact person is because she is not getting any information and the board is not getting any information. She asked how they can keep people safe if they are not getting any information.

Mrs. Rogers said she understood that but she can only ask the questions. She said what she got for a response is they haven't determined that yet. I'm the contact person but I'm not the decision maker and I can't make any of these decisions she said.

Mrs. Titus said this Wendy person is not giving her information and it is her job to have a venue, to tell her what time the set up is, what they need and whatever.

Mr. King said at this rate all they may be doing is this one night production that's going to be out and about in the town and they don't want any assistance or escort then they can do whatever they want. He said if they want to be paraded around or shown around they'll have to reach out to somebody.

Mrs. Titus said if we want to show off our town she would like some more information and asked what they should "doll up". She said there are a lot of things we could do to spruce up our town and show our pride and asked what we should do.

Mrs. Morin said she has reached out to them also and she has received one phone call back from Wendy.

Mrs. Rogers said she sent them an e-mail saying these are some of the things it would be nice to highlight like the 500 Club, the Farmington Preservation and Improvements Organization and she sent them a link to the news article about the Christmas lights when they put them up during COVID and she suggested a couple of other individual people.

Mrs. Titus asked if they need help from us and if they need volunteers.

Mrs. Rogers said they have not requested any help from us or asked for volunteers. She said she asked if they were going to do the scavenger hunt and she was told that that was never a thing. I had a screen shot and a few Face book posts where it was but...she said.

Mrs. Titus said it seemed to her that somebody is slacking and it is not us-it's not the Town, it's not the Rec. Dept., it's not our Town Administrator it's this person that is not giving us the information who is supposed to be a professional person.

Mrs. Rogers said she has reached out and had conversations with some of the other towns and

we are not the only ones in that boat. She said they showed up in Lancaster today at 3 p.m. the post says they are spending the entire day in the town and 3 p.m. is not what she would consider the entire day. She said she offered to let them use the Rec. Center as a home base so they have a bathroom they can use and it is private and she said thank you I'll let you know.

Mrs. Titus said if we have people coming from out of town to see them maybe some of the businesses should know about it like Farmington House of Pizza, South Main and Crowley's and they may need to stock up before they come to town.

Mr. King said he knew Mrs. Titus was worried about all this but based upon the notice they've given us we've done everything we could to accommodate them and if they had a little more notice they might have been able to get them in the high school. He said they weren't able to do that with the short notice because other events were scheduled and they've done the best they can and hopefully it comes off as well as it could be.

Mrs. Morin said it was not just other events they couldn't cancel the whole school day and they couldn't risk their student's education for a whole day to benefit this group.

Mrs. Rogers said they just can't let them in the building just because they're famous. She said they still have crews and they don't know who they are and they can't just have them running around the school building.

Mrs. Titus said she just didn't want the public to think that they're the ones dropping the ball because they're not. We have been open to this and wanting to help and putting money up from the Rec. for it she said.

Mrs. Rogers said she has taken a lot of angry phone calls today and she agreed. She said the poor planning was on their part when they decided to put on Face book they were going to come to our town and do this and they wanted everybody involved in it but they didn't come to the Town and see if it was feasible. She said they took what they were given and tried to make the best of the situation. It's not going to please everybody. We could have given out 1,000 tickets and it still wouldn't please everybody she said.

Mrs. Titus asked how many tickets they gave out.

Mrs. Rogers said 300 tickets because that is what the bleachers can hold.

Mr. Staples asked why it was confined to the bleachers.

Mrs. Rogers said they are going to be running back and forth on the gym floor and they can't have people seated there.

Mr. Staples asked if they could confirm them to the stage (the performers).

Mr. King said it sounds like they have done as much planning as they can and if they reach out to us we'll do the best we can. Anybody that has a ticket good for them and enjoy the show he said.

Mrs. Morin asked who the majority of the tickets were given to.

Mrs. Rogers said between herself and the volunteers she had handing out tickets they recognized about 90% of the people that came through and there were a few faces she didn't

recognize but for the most part one of them was able to recognize and determine who they were. She said one family they gave 7 tickets to because it was a mom and a dad with kids and that's a family. Other than that there were a couple of groups of 5 or 6 and that is not an unrealistic number. She asked if they are going to show up with mom, dad and 3 kids and then said she didn't know and there is no way for her to police that. They could have taken those tickets and given them to somebody in Rochester I can't police that she said.

Mr. King asked if the tickets were restricted to Farmington residents only.

Mrs. Rogers said they didn't but they tried to keep it to Farmington residents as much as possible.

Mr. King said if they didn't put that hard and fast restriction on it then the people they came to see were mostly Farmington residents and that will be who is there.

Mrs. Rogers said originally they were going to sell tickets to the show which they would have put on their event page thru Recycled Percussion and you would have to buy them thru there and it could have been people from MA for all we know. This is actually a better way of making sure that the majority of them were Farmington residents she said.

Mrs. Titus asked if she was sure it's not on their page now.

Mrs. Morin said the free tickets were not on their page and they gave them out.

Mrs. Titus asked if they are selling tickets.

Mrs. Rogers said they were only selling tickets to cover production costs because they thought they were doing a full large scale production and when that changed she said they're going to sell tickets because they don't need to cover those costs so she said they would handle the ticketing because if they just open the doors and they have 1,000 people waiting outside for 2 hours in 90 degree weather and now the Police have to tell 700 angry people that they have to go away and it didn't seem like a good idea.

Mrs. Titus asked if the school is set up to have this and if they have volunteers for cleanup.

Mrs. Rogers said the janitors are on until 10 p.m. so it should just fall into a regular event like if they had any other event and they've cleared it with the school and the School Board.

Mrs. Morin said there is a small group of volunteers that are going to help as well.

Mrs. Rogers said they are not selling concessions and there are no liquids and no bags allowed in so there shouldn't be popcorn bags, spilled food and drinks all over the floor.

Mrs. Titus asked if they are selling T-shirts and things like that.

Mrs. Rogers said that she believes they are selling merchandise and they have that set up in a flow thru one door down one hallway. She said with the holiday weekend they realistically had less than a week to plan this and they did the best they could with what they were given and it is what it is at this point.

Mr. King said he was satisfied and if they give us additional information and they want to show up early and search some stuff he was sure they could pull that off but as of now it's at 7 p.m. Thursday night.

Mrs. Rogers said she didn't know if they took her list and reached out to somebody on her list and coordinated it with them and that she has not received anything on that.

Mr. Vachon said he was surprised to see that it was at HWMS and tickets were being given out because the last he knew it was at the Rec. Dept. and they were being sold. He said he would have liked to model Lancaster and say it was just for residents and require an i. d. at the door to prove you're a resident since this is for Farmington not for Rochester who had their own show. He said that information was not given until he requested it on Saturday morning. This whole thing has been short fire and no information and I thought it was a good idea and now that we're into it I think it's a horrible idea he said.

Mrs. Rogers said she agreed with that statement wholeheartedly. She said she thought it was a great idea and it's been a logistical nightmare. She said they have been through many different plans and she couldn't tell them how many times she has gone back and forth between Mr. Dickie, Mrs. Morin, the school, the School Board and Chaos & Kindness, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and back again.

Mr. King said it sounds like this is typically how they roll-they put a date on it and they're going to show up and do whatever they're going to do wherever they're going to do it and they only have so many people to communicate with so a lot of questions go unanswered. He said she talked to other communities and it sounds like that's the way they roll and we are doing the best we can.

Mrs. Rogers said the only other option would be to say no thank you.

Mr. King said they already gave the tickets out and they have the booked the space and hopefully everyone has a good time. He said if there are any changes they could put it on the website and do an e-mail blast and on Face book but at this point it's scheduled for 7 p.m. Thurs. night.

Mrs. Rogers said yes.

Mr. Dickie said he would have it out on the website tomorrow.

Mrs. Titus asked if no more tickets were going out.

Mrs. Rogers said the tickets were gone within an hour and 20 minutes this morning. She said there were people lined up out there when she brought her kids to school at 7:20 a.m.

Mr. Staples asked if she had a rough price tag for the Police/Fire details are going to cost and if they would be using the Highway Dept.

Mr. Dickie said he just got it and he can print it out. He said the Highway Dept. is not needed they need 2 EMT's and 7 Police officers so it will probably be from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Mr. Vachon asked if the Highway Dept. is posting all the side roads for No Parking like they usually do for fire apparatus and emergencies for Hay Day.

Mr. Dickie said the Police are posting the roads. He said they coordinated that between the Highway and Police Depts. and that was part of the last meeting he was at. Everything kind of flipped-flopped after that he said.

4). Next Meeting: Monday, June 5, 2023


5). Adjournment:

Motion: (Morin, second Staples) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 6:17 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Gerry Vachon, Chairman

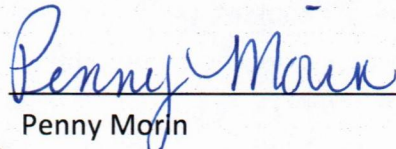
Ann Titus



Douglas Staples



Charlie King, Vice Chairman



Penny Morin