

Kittery Celebration Committee Meeting
February 17, 2022 | 4:00 PM | Zoom Webinar
Approved Minutes

1. Approval of Previous Minutes
 - Minutes were approved as presented.
2. Next Events
 - Arts Festival Update
 - Jeremy was unable to attend the meeting. Suzanne advised that the Arts group was looking to plan events every Thursday, from July 14 – August 18. Potential sites would include: the Rice Public Library, KAA, Dance Hall, Buoy, KCC, Fort Foster, John Paul Jones Park and the Foreside.
 - Local Scavenger Hunt
 - Asher provided an update on the scavenger hunt that the library has been working on. The scavenger hunt would be geared towards a younger crowd, encouraging them to visit local sites including Fort Foster, Fort McClary, Rice Public Library, KCC, Thresher Memorial Park, John Paul Jones Park, Cutts Island Trail and Seapoint Beach.
 - Asher suggested there be hole punches at different sites as a means for getting to/tracking each site.
 - The group discussed the scavenger hunt. Sam suggested including interactive activities, in addition to locations. Jane suggested activities that would appeal to kids of different ages.
 - Taste 2022
 - Suzanne updated the group on the latest correspondence regarding the Taste of Kittery. Jeremy and Suzanne received positive feedback from the restaurants to do another Taste event this year, with various requests to move the date earlier into September instead of October.
 - The group discussed holding the event in September to coincide with a Kittery School-lead event that Jane proposed to the group.
 - Coast Guard Birthday
 - Sam advised the group that things are moving along in regards to the Coast Guard birthday/fireworks event. The fireworks would be set off from a barge, chartered by Wood Island, out near Gerrish Island. Sam suggested waiting until a few more details had been ironed out before announcing the event to the public.
 - The group discussed the event, and locations from which the public could see the fireworks, including Fort Foster, Pepperrell Cove and Fort McClary. Deane volunteered to reach out to his contact regarding Fort McClary to request it remain open at night for the public to view the fireworks from.
 - Trolley Tours
 - The library stated that the trolley would not be in service this year for tours.

- Lectures/Tours, etc.
 - The group discussed upcoming lectures at the KCC that needed to be added to the 375th website.
 - Lee said tickets for the Howell's Home Tour would be going on sale in April.
 - Suzanne asked that the Bob Gray/Kim Sanborn let the group know when tickets to the Garden Tour would be on sale so the information could get posted on the website.
 - Culminating Event
 - Jane presented an idea to group about a Kittery Schools-lead festival event. Jane suggested it would be a birthday party for the town, geared towards kids of all ages. Jane thought the event could take place the day or evening prior to the Taste of Kittery, to create one large culminating weekend event.
 - The group thought the event would be a wonderful idea and discussed different ways kids and community groups could get involved.
 - The group threw out additional ideas for events: D. Allan suggested a parade that could coincide with the Kittery Block Party. D. All also confirmed the date for the Town of Kittery Independence Day Celebration for June 25, 2022 and asked if that information could go on the website.
 - Sam mentioned that the Tall Ships would be returning to Portsmouth August 18-20.
3. Merchandise Thoughts
- The group discussed the idea of creating some 375 merch to have available for the upcoming Kittery Block Party, Arts Festival and/or Taste of Kittery event.
 - Deane suggested creating a new Town flag, or 375th specific flag that could be sold.
 - The group discussed the previously proposed ideas of notecards featuring historic Kittery landmark postcards, tumblers or bags, and holiday ornaments. Suzanne asked if any committee members had time or an interest in taking on the merchandise portion of the celebration. None of the committee members were interested in handling merch.
4. Cookbook Update
- Betsy provided an update on the cookbook. Betsy applied for two additional grants to help with the book. Betsy said she will stop collecting additional recipes as of March 1, 2022 so she can focus on finalizing the book and providing a draft to the publisher by June 1, 2022. Betsy's goal is to have the book completed in September, 2022 and expects it to be roughly 200+ pages.
5. D. Allan's monthly article installments
- D. Allan advised the group that the next article in his series would be about the two Kittery submarine tragedies: USS Thresher and USS Squalus.
6. Next Meeting

- The group discussed meeting again in April. Suzanne Esposito said she would speak to Jeremy Paul and get some possible dates out to the group.