

***Wednesday, July 15th, 2026 @ 6:00pm**
@ Gosia's Rustic Kitchen*

- **Attendees:** Carol Williamson, Diana Schwartz, Ashley Beasley, Laura Dietrich Gillim, Dudley Dunlavey, Maggie Baniak, Drew Jackson, Sheila Evans, Ruth Gerbig and Nancy Wallace
- Signage:
 - Carol got the sign from the town council meeting, but the easel is missing. Ashley says it may be in their storage closet.
 - First Farmer's Bank - Dudley will check
 - Greek's - unsure where easel went
 - Library - need to check
 - Historical Society - need to check
 - Farmer's Bank - need to check
- Donation Cans:
 - Nancy, Laura and Sheila picked up most if not all of them.
 - Haven't been able to find the one at Farmer's Bank. The manager says she thinks it was picked up when the sign was picked up, but no one in the committee has done so.
- Financial Update
 - \$11,884.33 Current Bank Account
 - Outstanding Bills to be paid
 - DJ Ryan Henry \$600
 - Tent Rental to Aaron Bell \$800
 - Reimbursements to Carol Williamson
 - Vendors reimbursement for volunteer meals
- 4th of July What Went Well/Not Well Discussion
 - Pre-Planning
 - Lots of ideas were tossed around beforehand which aided planning this year
 - Next time consider assigning coordinators to different sections of planning with subcommittees for each one as well
 - Vendors
 - Volunteers
 - Sponsors
 - Prizes or Contests

- Public meeting for community involvement went well and should be done again to encourage participation
- Documentation
 - Master lists for vendors, sponsors, donations, etc have been created and are being kept on the drive.
 - Diana has put together a file organizer to be kept by the secretary for organization purposes.
- Signage at the event this year:
 - Didn't notice any ebikes at the event.
 - Banners at Biddle Park have been taken down and Eric Gifford is looking for them to give back to us.
- Schedule
 - Setup in the morning still happened around 7am.
 - The event will probably have to be at the school again next year due to construction.
 - The festival in the morning at the park and then fireworks at school in the evening would require twice the amount of volunteers. Need to make sure we don't wear out our members or volunteers and with high heat on July 4th that can happen very easily.
- Duties
 - Need to be better organized next time.
 - Schedule like the one we had for Harvest Moon would be better
 - The Information Tent needed more people manning it. The prize tent should be next to it so that people can still get information while prizes are being passed out at the other tent.
- Volunteers
 - Contact them ahead of time to assign jobs and times? Carol says she texted them on her phone, but a master copy at the information tent was not found the day of which would help next time.
- Set-Up
 - Need to make sure the building is unlocked when it needs to be so setup can happen on time. The school custodians were difficult to find so maybe having a number to reach them with next time would be better.
- Event Activities
 - Ball Drop
 - Heard people at the event commenting that they didn't know it was happening beforehand and had missed it.

- People rushed to get the prizes instead of coming back later. Probably used to that sort of thing from previous ball drops or egg hunts.
 - Maybe start it later in the evening so we can have a larger crowd.
- Prizes
 - Laura did an excellent job organizing, but maybe next year would be better to share that responsibility
 - Pitch in and help pick them up before the event better so it doesn't fall to one person.
 - Several prizes leftover
- Quiet Corner
 - Need to create a wishlist so people can donate for replacement toys.
- Wrestling
 - Used half the fieldhouse space
 - Went over very well
 - Move to earlier in the day so draw the crowd out
- Band
 - They only got to play for 45 minutes, but crowd loved them and we have gotten excellent feedback about them.
- Veteran Walk
 - Great on the hill
 - QR code needed to be more prominent
- Restrooms - Portable as well
 - Signs on other parts of the building to let people know they aren't open
- Kid Zone
 - Inflatables need to be closer to the fieldhouse or moved to the grass near the softball diamond.
 - Inside the gym maybe?
 - Puttputt went over very well.
 - Inflatables were very hot.
 - Jousting game was popular too.
 - More shade options in the kid zone
- Cake Walk
 - Little Debbie's cakes went over great
- Hot Dog & Watermelon eating contest
 - Went great with lots of participation

- Videos and pictures of both were taken and will be posted if they haven't
- Dunk Tank
 - Not a lot of volunteers
 - Unless we have a group willing to man it in the future, not really worth having it
 - One of the volunteers complained that the water was splashing out too quickly.
 - The fire department did come and refill it at least once.
- Vendors
 - Spray chalk for next year's setup would be preferable. Diana was pretty worn out from bending over to use regular chalk to outline the booths and it took longer than she would have liked.
 - Sheila did a great job handing out the packets to the vendors as they arrived.
 - Setup for the food vendors could stay on parking lot next time, but maybe non-food vendors could be in the grass to help with heat that is reflected by the dark parking lot
 - Everything seemed very spread out, so maybe condense things to smaller area
 - Possibility of moving them into the gym in case of rain or high heat if the school administration would approve?
- Tents and Heat
 - Tents in the grass area were much cooler than the parking lot.
 - Need more tents and canopies next time.
 - Could we possibly set up fans in the corners of the tents to circulate air?
 - Misters would have been a good idea if they can be sponsored next year.
- Medical Emergency Plan - include scrapes where bandages are needed
 - Need to address with the town department heads
 - EMS were there for an hour or so and then left for the remainder of the event.
 - In previous years they have had a presence for the entire event. Unsure why that didn't happen this year.
 - For safety reasons, need to have someone on hand for the entire event in case of heat stroke, falls, etc
- Clean Up
 - Need more volunteers for this next time

- Clean up earlier the next day instead of waiting til noon or later
 - All indoor stuff had to be cleaned up that evening and trash bags had to be taken out before we left
- Rain Plan - Include weather evacuation
- Alternate Day Plan
 - Would it be worth it to change the holiday festivities to another day so that we don't compete against other larger events nearby?
- Participation in other organization activities throughout the community for the remainder of the year.
 - Jeep Invasion
 - Saturday, August 1st. They are expecting us to join them for this.
 - Football games on Friday nights
 - Sell something or have games or activity so long as it doesn't compete with concession stand or spirit shop.
 - Harvest Moon type of activity in lieu of the festival this year
 - Scarecrows on Main?
 - Main Street Inc should be finding out in the next week if trunk or treat event on main street will happen this year
- Tipton Pork Festival is in September and would be a good way to get ideas for future events
- Photographer - Hamilton County Tourism should probably be able to send out a photographer to our events if we ask them.
- Would like to order flowers for Connie Pearson due to the passing of her husband, Phil. Ashley will order and send
- Dudley made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from June 24th and July 1st meetings. Nancy seconded the motion. Meeting minutes are accepted.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, July 29th @ 6pm @ Gosia's Rustic Kitchen

Minutes submitted by: Diana Schwartz 7.18.26

Approved: