

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE
BLACKSTONE MUNICIPAL CENTER (15 St. Paul Street)
BOARD OF SELECTMEN CHAMBERS
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2025 (5:30 PM)**

Town Clerk
Town of Blackstone

APR 07 2025

Time: _____
RECEIVED

1. Pledge of Allegiance & Call to Order

Meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairwoman Polak called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

2. Roll Call- Attendance

Present were Vice Chairwoman Tanya Polak and Daniel Keefe. Town Administrator Chad Lovett, Town Accountant/Assistant Town Administrator Lauren Taylor, Fire Chief Kevin Roy, and Recording Secretary Sara Peters. Brad Weissman attended virtually.

3. Accept Minutes

• **a) Meeting of Regular Session- March 4, 2025**

- Motion: Mr. Keefe made a motion to accept the March 4, 2025 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Weissman. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

4. Citizens Forum: Good & Welfare- Public

None.

5. New Business

• **a) Finalize Planning of the Memorial Day Activities**

i. Dates, Communications, Advertising

Vice Chairwoman Polak asked the Committee if they still want to move forward with adding more days to the Amusement activities.

Mr. Lovett said it would be about \$7,300 for each day to staff Police detail. It would be about \$2,500 for Fire Department detail. So a total of \$10,000 per day to staff.

The Committee agreed that adding more days to the event would hurt the taxpayers of Blackstone.

The Committee discussed keeping the Parade and ceremony as is and possibly moving the carnival and fireworks to another day to honor Memorial Day as a somber day of reflection/remembrance and not a celebration.

Vice Chairwoman Polak suggested having a Blackstone Day next year in the Summer or Fall instead with rides, vendors, and fireworks and reorganizing the Committee to become an events committee and not just Memorial Day.

Mr. Keefe suggested next year doing a celebration in July for the 250th birthday of the United States.

The Committee agreed that they would like to return Memorial Day to be a parade and ceremony only next year and will announce that this year will be the last year for a celebration and fireworks on Memorial Day.

Mr. Weissman said that Cushing Amusements was hard to get in contact with but Rockwell Amusements was very responsive. He also spoke with Manwell Amusements. All three are available.

Mr. Lovett suggested reaching out to the amusement companies and letting them know that there are three companies available and see what each is willing to provide for rides on the day of the event.

Mr. Weissman will reach out to each company and see what they each will offer. He will let them know they have two weeks to put forward their plan.

The Committee discussed what hours they would like to see for the carnival rides. They suggested opening at 11 AM and staying open until 10 PM.

Vice Chairwoman Polak said she has updated the website and did a facebook event for May 25, 2025 through the Town's page.

ii. Ceremonies

Mr. Keefe will take care of both the Saturday and Sunday ceremonies.

iii. Parade (Registration, Character Participants, Marching Bands, etc.)

Vice Chairwoman Polak has requested the character participants and specifically asked for Jack Sparrow again.

The sign-up form for the parade is live on the website.

iv. Celebration (Carnival, Food Trucks, Musical Performances, Other Vendors)

Mr. Keefe will confirm the musical performances with the bands. There will not be music during 3 and 4 PM during the Sensory Friendly hour.

v. Fireworks Display

Chief Roy reached out to DCR and they are going to work on signage for the bike path when it needs to close for the Fireworks. He stated once the fireworks are on site then the bike path, playground, and little league field will need to be closed.

The Committee will print signs and communicate it on the website so that residents are well informed.

The contract for fireworks is \$10,000. It has been sent to the Town Administrator but has not been executed yet.

Daniel Keefe made a motion to approve and execute the fireworks contract; seconded by Brad Weissman. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

vi. Other Planning Activities (Sound Systems, Fire/Police Needs, etc.)

This topic was already discussed.

6. Approve Invoices/Bills

The bills/invoices include: a \$60 invoice for Recording Secretary Sara Peters.

- Motion: Daniel Keefe made a motion to approve the secretary's invoice of \$60; seconded by Brad Weissman. Vote unanimous; motion passes.

7. Good & Welfare- Memorial Day Committee

None.

8. Adjournment

- Motion: A motion was made by Daniel Keefe to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM; seconded by Brad Weissman. Vote unanimous; motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

Time: 6:17 PM

Next Meeting: April 2, 2025

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Sara Peters

Town of Blackstone
Memorial Day Committee

Emp #

Employee Name

Account Number

Sara Peters

01133-51130

| Meeting Date | Amount |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 3/19/2025 | \$ 60.00 |
| | |
| | |
| | |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Payroll Total | \$ 60.00 |
|----------------------|-----------------|

Employee Signature:

Committee Signatures:

Sara Peters
