

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
MINUTES OF BLOCK PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 27, 2015**

PRESENT: Bridget Meyer and Sam Jackson.
ADMINISTRATION: Patty Benoit, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM.

We discussed the outcome of cancelling this year's block party due to predicted thunderstorms. The decision was based on concern for public safety, as there is no cover on Railroad Ave. for a very large crowd. Our 40 non-profit groups, businesses and vendors were very nice about the cancellation, as well as our sponsors. Many of our paid vendors are on board for next year – X-Rays, Tom Joyce the Magician, the Big Blue Trunk, etc. Ten out of fifteen sponsors told us to hold it for next year rather than send it back. We are sending three sponsorships back, the largest being \$250 for Depot Home & Garden. Two sponsors told us to keep it for a donation so we will put it toward this year's train hop and tree lighting.

The Brite Nite 5K Run went on, as they hold it rain or shine. We understand it was very successful. Having a rain date for the block party was discussed again but is not considered an option, as it is very difficult to organize. It is also asking a lot of so many of our participants and vendors to hold another date in the summer. And if it rained for that too, we'd be in the same situation.

The cost for the Village this year was approximately \$3,000 out of a budget of \$9,000, which would have included 10-11 hours of overtime the day of the block party for Patty and five of the Public Works staff. We are holding \$1,250 in sponsorships for next year.

It was unfortunate that we couldn't have the block party this year but we're already in great shape for next year. Next year will be the 15th year so we want to make it even more special.

Bridget reiterated our need for more volunteers on the committee as well as on the day of the block party.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM. The next meeting will be January 25, 2016 at 3:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patty Benoit