

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
MINUTES OF BLOCK PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2016**

PRESENT: Sam Jackson and Steve Gragg
ADMINISTRATION: Patty Benoit, Administrative Assistant; Darby Mayville,
Community Relations Assistant.

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

2016 Block Party Recap

Bridget Meyer emailed a list of her thoughts and suggestions. The committee thought the block party went very well this year, the weather cooperated and it was probably the biggest crowd ever. We didn't have to tow any cars so that was good. The photo booth that replaced the dunking booth was a big hit. The committee agreed that we should get a small bounce castle for little kids because it was not a good situation to have them in there with bigger kids.

Unlike previous block parties, there were problems with difficult people throughout the day and evening. There were drunken men and women behind an apartment building who gave staff a hard time during set up. It was agreed that next year we need to alert Essex Police earlier if necessary. A woman whose car was about to be towed off Railroad Ave. sped through the street and almost rammed the tow truck. Later during the block party, a woman gave one of our vendors an extremely difficult time when she was going to take a short break and it escalated into a bad scene so the police were called over. And the owner of the Roaming Railroad stopped the train once and made everyone get off because of their behavior.

The final most disturbing thing that happened was theft from Northern Lights Rock and Ice. They were charging people \$5 to use their climbing wall and had quite a bit of money in a bank bag, which someone stole. The Essex Police are investigating the theft and are seeking the camera footage from the Amtrak station, which is in the hands of New England Central Railroad. It appears to have been a group of teenagers and there were attempts to steal from other vendors too. We could not remember this ever happening at a previous block party and next year we will have to alert our vendors to be extremely careful with their money. The committee agreed it was a rougher crowd this year and a sign of the times we live in. And the block party is not just an Essex event because people come from all over the county now.

The committee discussed the EJRP 5K Night Run, going back to our original time frame of 4-9 PM for the block party and the night run can be held after the block party is over. The 5-10 PM time frame is too late for a lot of people.

The next meeting of the committee will be in January 2017. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Benoit