

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Community Events Committee

The Community Events Committee is made up of members of the community, non-profit organizations, and Town staff, who collaboratively work together to provide events for the Town of Bristol residents to enjoy each year.

In 2015, the Committee continued their efforts to offer the events that the Town has come to enjoy and sponsored new events as well, continuing with the production of the Events Brochure. The brochure has been a huge hit and has been approved to be printed two times a year. The Summer brochure covers June through August; and a Fall/Winter/Spring brochure covers September through May.

The Summer Concert Series continues to be well-attended. A “huge” thanks goes out to Greg Gorski, the Bristol Shop N' Save and the townspeople for their continued support. The music and food were provided by Bristol Shop N' Save who donated the proceeds to the Bristol Community Services at the end of the summer. New performers this year set the bar high and the Series had many nights with record numbers and great memories. The Committee also added an extra concert this year. We enjoyed the sounds of Studio Two-A Beatles Tribute Band, Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio, Uncle Steve Band, Club Soda, Northbound Band, Swing Rockets, Brian Conway, New Horizons Band, and the Red Hat Band.

The 4th of July events were added to the Committee's responsibility for this year. Sponsoring the parade was a large task added to a small committee, but the volunteers pulled through and it was a huge success. The theme “No Place Like Home” added great floats with a spirited competition. Winners were: Best Overall Antique Car Entry – 1949 Cadillac of John Rolfs; Best Overall Kids Entry – Newfound Area Nursing Association; Best Overall Theme Entry – Danbury Cosmetology; and Best Overall Theme Entry Honorable Mention – Walker Farm. Carroll Brown added announcing and music as the parade traveled along its route. The Committee is very grateful to the volunteers (too many to list here) that helped and look forward to another successful parade in 2016.

In August, the Annual Old Home Day event continued those big moves of 2014, by kicking off of the week-end events with the last concert of the summer series on Thursday, and the Bristol Fire Department's Annual Spaghetti Supper and the Sock Hop at the Bristol Shop 'n Save Pavilion on Friday. Saturday morning started off with the 5K Road Race/Fun Walk to support Stand Up Newfound, a buffet breakfast at the Masonic Union Lodge, the annual Horseshoe Tournament and a fun softball game. As if that wasn't enough, there were still many new things to do as the day progressed. The Old Home Day group pulled out the stops a second year in a row to provide the Town with another Old Home Day to remember, getting more people involved, participating and visiting. Events throughout the day included: old time games including the toilet paper toss, programs including the Plymouth Police Department Police Dog Presentation, the Fire Department “Hose” Down, the fun-time music of Steve Blunt, the display of the Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby, the annual Health Fair, and the Police Department Dunking Booth. The day ended with the Annual Tapply-Thompson Community Center's Lobster/Chicken Dinner, a movie on the Park and then another awesome fireworks show. It was a great community day, and so many tired volunteers to thank for all they did to help make this day so special for the many participants. Stay tuned for what 2016 will bring.

In October, the Annual Halloween Event was kicked off with a new event, the Scarecrow competition. Participants displayed wonderful scarecrow creations either in the Square or in front of their homes and businesses. Over 20 participants were a huge hit and added to the wonderful décor for the Halloween Event. Winners were: First Place Overall – Renaissance Florals; First Place Business – Basic Ingredients; and First Place Family – The Hunewill Family. On Halloween night, the bitter cold didn't stop the parade of Trick or Treating ghouls, goblins, witches and more, added this year was the participation of the Newfound Memorial Middle School Band and changing the parade route down North Main Street and into the Square.

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Community Events Committee (Continued)

The Town was full of creepy sights from 5 – 8 pm. The Committee also added a great game “Enter the Zombie Zone” where participants tracked down the 5 special Zombies and submitted their entry for a chance to win a prize. Winners were: 1st place \$50 Visa Card – Trevor Sanschagrin; 2nd Place \$20 cash – Romeo Dokus; and 3rd Place Pizza Gift Certificate (donated by Pats Pizzeria) – Kady Smith. The Bristol Fire and Police Departments set up in the downtown common area, handing out candy and glow-necklaces, while the Lions Club food wagon gave out hot chocolate and sold treats. Area businesses opened their doors, giving out food and candy with some even dressing up to enjoy the night. The Tapply-Thompson Community Center held a Haunted Cellar, the Minot-Sleeper Library gave out goody bags and the Masonic Lodge hosted their annual Halloween Haunted House. What a great night this was, full of community partnership and it is what continues to make this event another success for the Town.

In November, the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was continued by the Committee, with the Decorating Committee taking the front role of setting up and helping to prepare the night. The unusual summer-like weather definitely changed the atmosphere of the night, but the downtown common area was beautiful and packed. Carolers dressed in old-time outfits, the Grinch and Frosty the Snowman visited the crowd while everyone waited for the arrival of Santa, enjoying hot chocolate or hot cider, tasting old fashioned roasted chestnuts, enjoying free popcorn and listening to the announcements done by Al Blakely. Santa arrived on his Fire Truck sleigh, which the Bristol Fire Department does a wonderful job lighting. With the flip of a switch by Santa, the beautiful Christmas tree was lit with many tiny lights and kids of all ages followed Santa to visit at the Tapply-Thompson Community Center.

In December, the Committee added another great competition to the list, with the First Annual Holiday Door or Window Decorating Contest. Over 15 participants signed up, adding to the beautiful decorations throughout Town. Winners were: First Place Business Entry – Village House of Pizza, who will receive bragging rights with the annual trophy to display for the year; and First Place Residential Entry – Garlyn Manganiello, who will receive a \$100 check. The Committee is looking forward to even bigger and better decorations in next year’s competition.

There are so many wonderful things that continue to happen throughout the year, too many to list in one report. Make sure you get a copy of the events brochure, which can be found throughout the Town or check out the Community Event’s page on the Town’s website or stop in on the Community Events Facebook Page where lots of advertisements are and lots of pictures of events.

In 2016, the Committee would like to be able to continue the events of the past years, the ones that the Town and its children have come to love. Without the Town’s support and participation it would not be possible. Volunteers are always welcome to participate. Community Event Committee meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Tapply-Thompson Community Center and additional meetings are scheduled as needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Committee through either the Tapply-Thompson Community Center (744-2713), the Town Offices (744-3354) or via email at bristolevents@townofbristolnh.org.

Respectfully submitted
Community Events Committee
Town of Bristol

