

**Montgomery Township
Autumn Festival Committee
Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2011**



At 6:47 p.m. Co-Chair Ruth Hardin called the Autumn Festival meeting to order. Sue Dessner, Ruth Hardin and Sharon Tucker were in attendance.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

September Minutes were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteering

Sharon Tucker noted that we started off the week of Autumn Festival extremely short of volunteers and by Friday 9/30 a lot of groups had come forward with more volunteers. We actually ended up with far more volunteers at the last minute than we needed. Ruth suggested that we put a limit of the number of volunteers that we can accept from each group (perhaps 10 from each group we contact). Except for running out of shirts that day, it worked out with the volunteers and we were grateful to have more help than we needed as opposed to not enough. Ruth also suggested that we specifically schedule some people for morning set-up and some for cleaning up at the end of the day.

Schedule of Events

The committee noted that the day went really well. They thought it was nice to have the pumpkins and scarecrows in the back together. It was a little tough for some of the vendors in the back but we all tried to make the best of the weather and it worked out great.

Ruth and Sue needed a little more direction on announcements throughout the day. They weren't sure when to start the opening and if they were supposed to be doing announcements throughout the day.

National Anthem Singer

Everyone agreed that Olivia did a great job singing the National Anthem. Stacy sent her a thank you and was going to see if we could reserve her to do it again next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Wrap-up/Feedback

- Ruth suggested that we get a plaque to recognize Frank Lindinger for the food donations that he provides, not only for Autumn Fest, but for other events and with the Police Department as well. Sharon will look into it.
- The committee noted that it was great to have Plato's Closet participate since they are a brand new business in the township.
- Ruth also noted that Mud Shack had a great set-up and they were making some amazing pieces.

- The committee said that Penn State was doing a great job of trying to raise money for their fundraiser.
- Ruth thought it was great to have Dunkin Donuts there this year because people always want something in the morning. She would like to ask them to have tea next year.
- Ruth and Sue mentioned that Public Works did a great job of keeping everything clean and getting organized.
- The vendor shuttle worked really well in the morning, but it is a bit harder in the afternoon to coordinate.
- Ruth asked if we could get more trash receptacles for next year. She thought we used to have cardboard BFI bins in previous years.
- The committee would like to consider getting tie-dye shirts in fall colors for next year.
- Ruth asked if other events in the area seemed to cause a conflict with people coming out. Sharon noted that the only feedback that she heard about that was from some people that tried to go to Lansdale first but they weren't set up yet so they came to us. We are sure it impacted the overall attendance somewhat but we all agreed that it is still best to keep the date the first Saturday of the month.
- The committee discussed the possibility of trying something different next year instead of the Civil War Re-enactors. They looked great in their location near the Windlestrae House and they do a wonderful job but we have had them for several years and we may want to put that money into trying something different next year.
- Sharon noted that if they think of anything else to please send an email to her or Stacy with additional feedback.

Plan Next Meeting

The Autumn Festival Committee typically does not meet in November and December. The next planned meeting is January 11, 2012 at 6:45 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ruth indicated that she may have two new people for the committee and Sue may have one new person. They will follow-up and see if they can get a few extra members.

Sharon visited a corn maze over the weekend and they had a corn cannon activity. They took the dry ears of corn from their corn maze and used a "cannon" that was run off an air compressor to shoot the corn at a target across the field. It is a fun way to use the corn for an activity and it shouldn't make a big mess. Sharon will look into this for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ruth Hardin adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.