

Bandstand Committee Meeting

Minutes of September 13, 2023

Committee Members Present: Bill Muldoon, Gary Downes, Mike Millius, Rick Meisenbach, Betsy Nehf, Gina Caldwell and guest Dave Chipman.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am. The following items were discussed: Overall thoughts on the 2023 Season: Bill asked each member to say something about the season that just ended. The 2023 season was compared to earlier seasons & looking ahead to 2024 was discussed. Pammy Douglas was asked to attend but didn't show so discussion on the holiday event was postponed until next meeting. The meeting went as follows.

Bands discussed: Pat Collwell was fabulous with a new more powerful presentation. Everyone really liked Bonnie Edwards & was surprised how well she interacted with the audience. Delta Knights, Prima Cubano, Portland Jazz, Erica Brown & Jimmy Jo were all declared as very favorable concerts. Maillet Brothers were a success even though cost a lot & required huge amount of preparation. The season was a great success. We raised more money than last year, but also spent more. Money is still a big concern.

Review of the season -highs & lows: Even though the season was a huge success the general consensus was we need to shorten it for next season and need to review our mission. Suggestions for shortening the season were either to start on the last week of June or on July 4th. Also there was a general feeling of reducing the Harpswell Band performances from 3 to 2. One suggestion was to start the season on July 4th with the Harpswell Concert Band & possibly another group. Another suggestion was to start the concert series on the last Thursday in June. Bill plans to talk to John, Harpswell /concert Bank director, and explain to him our plan for next season.

Review Revenue Streams: Bill raised a funding question. Looking at ways to raise money at our concerts that would extend our benefit to the community. Food trucks, Onion Foundation, Harpswell Aging at Home, silent auctions, Anchor articles. One idea came up about having one sponsor put up an item such as Lee's Tire offering a set of tires that would be auctioned. Lee's Tire would then be the sponsor for that night concert. All of these items were discussed favorably.

Need for 2024 were discussed: Better dance space was discussed favorably. QR codes went well. Spring events such as Castle Bay were discussed & approved. Bill will contact Pammy to set another meeting to plan the Christmas season. Most importantly broadening the event on Thursday night will be our focus going forward with silent auctions, sponsorship involvement & new opportunities for entertainment.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday October 18, 2023 at 9:00 am.