

Amberley Village Council – Public Outreach Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2009

In attendance: Peg Conway (chair), Leslie McIntosh, Merrie Stillpass, Nicole Browder, Jack Monahan, Bernie Boraten, Tracy McMullen

Approval of Prior Minutes

Minutes from the March 12 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Newsletter Planning

Article ideas for the summer issue of the newsletter were discussed and assignments made. Peg announced that Sally Neidhard, an 09 graduate of the Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, would be assisting with writing and publicity for the Village this summer. The timing of the newsletter relative to Arbor Day also was discussed. May 1 publication doesn't work well for publicizing the event and necessitates the sending of a special post card. Moving the newsletter timing also presents difficulties. The possibility of electronic notification via the website was discussed as an option (using RSS feature).

Ice Cream Social

A reminder was given that the event is scheduled for August 23, from 7-9 pm. Nancy Moran is chairing it once again. Connie Ferguson dancers will once again perform (free), and Nancy has arranged for a Village resident to provide the musical entertainment (also free). Nancy has requested to serve only dishes of ice cream this year, no cones (which are slow service). The Committee agreed to try it this year. Jack agreed that the public safety officers would once again organize the safety activities. He will look into possibly having the "smoke house" (fire safety simulation) available. The new Amberley grocery bags will be sold that evening. It was suggested that a promotional poster about the website be created, to encourage people to sign up for RSS feeds as a way of being informed about Village affairs. Cell phone collection boxes, currently in the lobby of Village Hall, will be available also (to benefit MS society, arranged by a resident). The newsletter will promote the ice cream social on the front page.

Website Update

Peg noted that additional content, esp. Village history, is still planned for the website, which went live on June 5. Nicole explained how RSS feeds work and how they could be used, as well as discussed the document folder structure and some of its applications.

Fundraising

Peg presented a fundraising idea suggested by resident Jim Kelly (Beautification Committee member): a series of dinner parties to benefit the Village, analogous to the symphony's "parties of note." Guests pay to attend; hosts donate the party; cause receives the money. This could possibly benefit the gateway project as well as help residents meet each other. The Committee is interested in this idea, and Bernie agreed to look into how/whether governments have been involved in this type of fundraising.

New Business

Merrie brought forward for discussion the eventual need for new street signs on the Village's main streets. She described a possible design incorporating the Village log and using green letters on a white background. Specifics of this project initiative will be discussed in the Streets, Sewers and Public Utilities Committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Peg Conway, Chair