Members present: Lisa Evans, Carlene Hempel (chair), Margot Kimball, Ann Sussman, Jen Montbach

Members absent: Harry Bartlett

Visitors: Marcia Rasmussen, director, Planning and Land Management, town of Concord; Grazia de la Cruz, operations manager for Village Art Room

Porchfest planning: Jen reported that there are 16 bands participating so far and seven hosts. The committee discussed speaking with police; whether insurance is necessary; talking to Reasons to be Cheerful about installing an ice cream stand in the Harvey Wheeler parking lot; creating a Facebook page for the event; designing yard signs; establishing a partnership with the high school radio station; and creating a map to match hosts with bands. Lisa offered use of the bathrooms at the Concord Youth Theater building.

Walkability: Ann discussed outcomes from a May 24 meeting with Concord Public Works and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss pedestrian safety. Ann said she wants to make sure our group has a voice in discussions about walkability in the Village and specifically, she wants to have input in the design of the “bumpouts” to be installed on Commonwealth Avenue.

Marcia said the plan is to lay out where the bumpouts would be for a weekend to see if they will work as imagined. That plan has been stalled because of staff vacancies in the engineering division but it will happen, she assured.

Ann said she would like to look at the Village as a whole and from a pedestrian-safety perspective. She wants to review what is working and not working. To move this agenda item forward, Carlene asked Ann to acquire a large map of the Village from Marcia’s office and to create a database on which we can record sections of sidewalks that require the town's attention to promote walkability. Ann agreed to do this before the next meeting.

Wayfinding update: Marcia reported that she, former local West Concord Advisory Committee member and business owner Karen Currie and WCAC Chairman Pete DeRosa walked the Village to find locations for parking direction signs on Commonwealth Avenue, Main Street and the Church Street parking lot. Marcia said she had talked with local business owner Billy Crosby about making temporary signs so they could be installed and tested in various locations.
The group talked about promoting events and the arts district and planned to ask Harry to develop a logo for the Village that could be used for WCJCDC events and local artists to say “Art Happens Here.” Kate asked about using that logo and the arts district logo to install on banners from the light posts in the Village. Marcia said that would likely conflict with the flower baskets there and require new poles. But the group resolved to continue brainstorming signage to announce both the arts district and cultural events happening within it.

Other Business:

Lisa asked about creating a fund that would allow the committee to pay for small-ticket items, such as printing. Marica said she has $5000 in her budget for that purpose, a figure the group agreed was plenty for such efforts.

Kate asked about terms and term limits for the committee.

Marcia noted that ArtWeek 2020 will take place from May 1 through 10.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Next meeting: The August meeting was cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Hempel