



City of Keene
New Hampshire

**PLANNING, LICENSES AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Council Chambers A
September 13, 2017
7:00 PM**

David C. Richards
Philip M. Jones
George S. Hansel
Robert B. Sutherland
Bartlomiej K. Sapeta

-
1. Danya Landis/Machina Arts, LLC - Request to Use City Property - Railroad Square
 2. Kiwanis Club of Keene - Request to Use City Property - Tree Lighting Event
 3. Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr.- Proposal to Utilize Local Residents in Fixing Up Homes on the Tax Deed List
 4. Councilor Manwaring - Reconsideration of License - The Pumpkin Festival Brought to You by the Children of SAU 29

MORE TIME ITEMS:

- A. Tools for Keene's Economic Toolbox: The Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (RSA 79-E) & Economic Revitalization Zones – Planning and Assessing Departments

Non Public Session
Adjournment



Transmittal Form

September 5, 2017

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council

FROM: Danya Landis

THROUGH: Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

ITEM: 1.

SUBJECT: Danya Landis/Machina Arts, LLC - Request to Use City Property - Railroad Square

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council September 7, 2017.

Referred to Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

On behalf of Machina Arts, Danya Landis is seeking permission to erect a temporary metal sculpture in Railroad Square for a one year period.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Communication - Landis



MACHINA ARTS
ART INSPIRED EVENTS & DESIGN

In City Council September 7, 2017.

Referred to the Planning, Licenses and Development
Committee.

William S. Dow

Deputy City Clerk

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Nora Breen - a public artist from New York City has gifted a large pinwheel to Machina Arts so it could be placed in downtown Keene as a temporary public sculpture. The Pinwheel is painted steel therefore it will not rust. The pole is 11 feet tall and the wheel is 3 feet wide. The Installation is simple. A hole is placed 2ft below the top to hold the internal hub by pin. A hole is dug, 4' D 2'L X 2'W and is filled with concrete. The pole gets leveled with 2, 2 x 4's wood boards and sets overnight. The wheel and hub pop right in.

We believe public art is a important part of a vital, thriving city - and that Keene will benefit from having this unique, fun, piece in our city!

I propose this pinwheel be placed in railroad square (outside of the paved/brick area). I would like the sculpture to be up for one calendar year from the date of install. Machina Arts will provide the insurance and maintenance on the piece.

Thank you for your consideration, Any questions please call or email Danya Landis at danya@machinaarts.org or (603) 205-0135

Sincerely,

Danya Landis & Rebecca Hamilton
Machina Arts LLC





Transmittal Form

August 14, 2017

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council

FROM:

ITEM: 2.

SUBJECT: Kiwanis Club of Keene - Request to Use City Property - Tree Lighting Event

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council September 7, 2017.

Referred to Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Peg Bruce, on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Keene, is submitting their annual request to use City property for the 2017 Tree Lighting Event, which is scheduled for November 24, 2017. In addition, the Club would like to decorate the bandstand on Central Square, the tree on Central Square, and put up a second tree with battery operated mini lights on the Marlboro/Winchester Street roundabout. Because of squirrel damage that occurred in 2016, the Club would also like to set out have-a-heart cages several weeks before the decorations are erected in hopes of catching and relocating any resident squirrels.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Communication - Kiwanis Club



Kiwaniis CLUB OF KEENE

In City Council September 7, 2017.
Referred to the Planning, Licenses and Development
Committee.

William S. Dow

Deputy City Clerk

63 Emerald Street
PMB 451
Keene, NH 03431
keenekiwaniis.org

August 8, 2017

Mayor Lane and the Keene City Council
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

Re: 11/24/2017 Tree Lighting, Central Square, Keene, NH

OFFICERS:

Paul Bothwell
President

Dave Ganio
Vice President

Peg Bruce
Past President

Janet Genatt
Treasurer

Sue Farrell
Co-Treasurer

Peg Bruce
Secretary

Phyllis Custer
Co-Secretary

DIRECTORS:

Carl Allen

Phyllis Custer

James Faux

Pamela Little

Eli Rivera

Arthur Trombly

PAST PRESIDENTS:

Peg Bruce 2015-16

David Ganio 2014-15

Beth Healy 2013-14

Gary Grashow 2012-13

Carl Allen 2011-12

Michael Haines 2010-11

Jodi Turner 2009-10

Judy Kalich 2008-09

Art Trombly 2007-08

Michael Ward 2005-07

Dear Mayor Lane and the Keene City Council:

The Keene Kiwanis Club requests a license to produce the 2017 Tree Lighting Event. The Proposed date and time of the event is November 24, 2017, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This event compliments the Kiwanis' mission of supporting our local youth. Some of our past events include: our "Kool Wheels" bike safety program held each year at the Keene Recreation Center, our Antique Car Show at the American Legion and financially supporting the Imagination Playground equipment at the Keene Recreation Center. We also continue to keep the North Bridge Bike Trail clean and picked up.

This is the fifth year we are managing this event. We would once again like to decorate the Bandstand on Central Square with wreaths and lights, decorate the City tree on Central Square and, like last year, put up a second tree with battery operated mini lights the Roundabout at the Marlboro Street and Winchester Street intersection. We plan to do the decorating on a Saturday early in the month of November 2017 and take the decorations down by the beginning of February 2018. In light of the damage that squirrels did to the lights on the City tree last year we would also like permission to set out Have-a-Heart cages several weeks before we put up the decorations to see if we can allay that happening again this year and relocate any resident squirrels.

The 2016 event was a great success. The children enjoyed the entertainment with the brass band and the two children's choirs as well as the Christmas story read by staff from Moco Arts. They really liked having the fire truck circle the square with Santa and Mrs. Claus. We gave away 595 Christmas bells and had a very large crowd attend the event.

Feel free to contact me should there be any questions as I will once again be involved in the planning of this event. I can be reached at 603-762-7276 or at bru.peg@ne.rr.com.

Thank you for your consideration on this request.

Sincerely,

Peg Bruce

Peg Bruce, Secretary
Kiwaniis Club of Keene
603-762-7276



Transmittal Form

September 5, 2017

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council

FROM: Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr.

THROUGH: Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

ITEM: 3.

SUBJECT: Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr.- Proposal to Utilize Local Residents in Fixing Up Homes on the Tax Deed List

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council September 7, 2017.

Referred to Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Communication - Chamberlain

BACKGROUND:

Mr. Chamberlain is referring to properties on the tax deed list that need repairs as well as people in the community who need to learn a skill and have a job. He is suggesting a match up between people who need help and properties which need help.

William S. Dow

Deputy City Clerk

YOUR HONORABLE MAYER

KENDALL W. LANE

MEMBERS OF CITY COUNSEL,

PROGRAM FOR ALL PEOPLE TO

HAVE THEIR OWN HOMES.

PAYING PUTTING BACK ON TAXES ROLL

THERE ARE CITY HOMES THAT THE CITY

HAS HOLD OF FOR WHATEVER REASON - TAXES

THIS WOULD TEACH THESE PERSON

A JOB - RESPECTABLY -

BLESSING THEM AND THE CITY COMMUNITY
BY ALLOWING THEM MONEY INTO THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY

People will work on the city owned homes, learning
a trade for future employment which will
add to the local economy. Also would put the
houses back on paying taxes. After working on
the homes, the money they earned would go
toward back taxes and they would own
the home.

MR. KENNETH
(SQUEAK) CLIFTON
CHAMBERLAIN JR

~~Wishes to Remain~~

~~ATTORNEY~~

Kenneth Clifton Jr.

~~AND~~



City of Keene, N.H.
Transmittal Form

September 5, 2017

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council

FROM: Councilor Janis O. Manwaring

THROUGH: Patricia A. Little, City Clerk

ITEM: 4.

SUBJECT: Councilor Manwaring - Reconsideration of License - The Pumpkin Festival Brought to You by the Children of SAU 29

COUNCIL ACTION:

In City Council September 7, 2017.

Voted unanimously to reconsider and sent back to Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Pursuant to Section 19 of the Council's Rules of Order, Councilor Manwaring is submitting notice of her intent to move for the reconsideration of the license granted by the City Council at their August 3, 2017 regular meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Communication - Manwaring

Communication - KSC Interim President

Memorandum - Police Chief

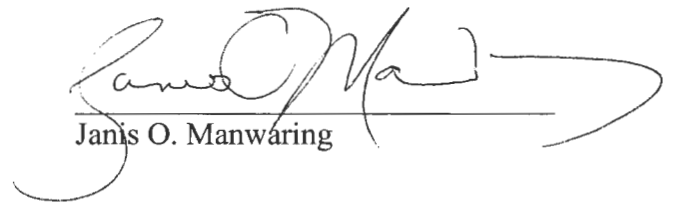
Memorandum - Fire Chief

September 5, 2017

The Mayor and City Council

Recommendation:

Based upon recent information, I request that City Council reconsider their decision approving a license for the Pumpkin Festival.



Janis O. Manwaring

In City Council September 7, 2017.

Voted unanimously to reconsider and sent back to Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.



Deputy City Clerk



Wisdom to make a difference.

President's Office

229 Main Street, Keene, New Hampshire 03435
603-358-2000

To: Mayor Kendall Lane
City Council - City of Keene, New Hampshire

From: Melinda Treadwell, PhD
Interim President
Keene State College

Date: September 7, 2017

Re: Pumpkin Fest 2017

Mayor Lane and Keene City Council,

Please accept this statement as a reflection of my deeply held concerns for the Let It Shine Main Street Pumpkin Fest scheduled for October 29.

The initial proposal to allow Keene State students an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment as engaged citizens of Keene and to exercise that commitment in the form of civic engagement was commendable. However, the revelation that a second and competing event planned for October 21, prior to the Let It Shine program, is an unfortunate indication of community discord and confusion regarding these now competing events. Further, the indication that SAU29 students would be the center point of both events sends a blurred and conflicting message and complicates the very laudable goals of enhancing family engagement and civic pride. Lastly, we have seen an early indication from a small subset of Keene State students and alumni (screen shots attached) that a party planning atmosphere may be emerging in advance of the Let It Shine event. We have not picked up any recent posts but will continue to monitor social media channels to determine whether this atmosphere is gaining momentum.

Last week, I convened a meeting to bring City officials and the organizers of both events together to raise these concerns and to seek to broker a collaborative opportunity for one carefully organized event on the Cheshire Fair Grounds that respects a longstanding tradition and promotes civic pride and that would provide more opportunity to contain some of the potential downside risks for the Main Street event.

I was discouraged to learn that the Let It Shine board was strongly inclined to move ahead with their planned event regardless and that ultimately a collaboration would not occur between the two "Pumpkinfest" events.

Lastly, yesterday I was deeply discouraged to learn of a social media push to engage the College's thousands of alumni in a fundraising effort to support the Let It Shine event (screen shot attached). This effort was in direct contradiction to my request of Tim Zinn when I was asked if our alumni could be approached as part of a fundraising campaign several weeks ago. Although a social media appeal is not an official usage of our alumni donor base, the action represents a serious breach of integrity. I have been convinced that Mr. Zinn was not aware of, or engaged in cultivating this appeal, but members of the Let It Shine Board were and they were also aware of my request that KSC alumni not be targeted in a fundraising campaign.

If the Let It Shine Pumpkinfest occurs as scheduled, given my concerns about the early reaction on social media promoting a party approach to the event, the College will take clear action to do our best to secure our population and to support our City colleagues efforts to ensure a safe event. The College will close its campus to visitors prior to and during the event, we will declare our “mitigating circumstances” clause of our student conduct policy allowing more severe sanctions for breaches of our conduct expectations for on, and off, campus residents. Ultimately, we will hold firm to a zero tolerance for unruly behavior. I will also seek to provide engagement experiences for our students with the regional school districts for both events—although we will be more actively engaged with the event at the fairgrounds on October 21.

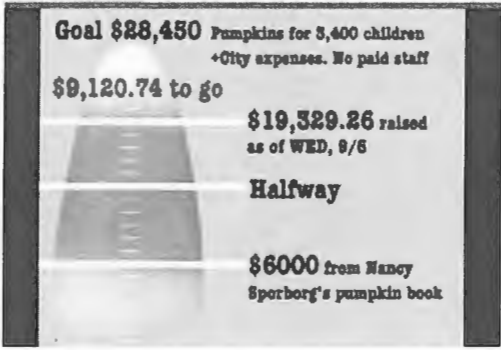
Despite all efforts, it is my opinion that an open Main Street venue does not provide the security that an event of this nature demands and neither Keene State College nor the City of Keene can afford the blemish and national attention that an unsuccessful event would generate. The failure to collaborate between the Monadnock Pumpkinfest and the Keene Pumpkinfest organizers is concerning and will strain resources and engagement interest.

As I have reviewed our planning and response actions with my team I have been most concerned to be briefed that the only difference with regard to our readiness today from 2014 is our student conduct orientation and our campus conduct governance for off campus students. I am deeply concerned that Keene and Keene State are not prepared should the Main Street event swell beyond projections or if this motivation to gather creates the environment for unruly behavior within the city limits.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melinda Treadwell".

Melinda Treadwell, PhD
Interim President



Keene Pumpkin Fest

With only two days until our September 8th Go/No go date, WE NEED all KSC Alum to pitch in! Let's see if KSC pride can combine to equal as much as author Nancy Sporborg is giving. As a proud 1988 graduate, I'll start us off with an \$88 gift. Please share with all KSC Alum. KSC KeeneStatePride http://www.pumpkinfest.org/index.php/home/home.php bring pumpkin to-downtown-downtown

Like Comment Share

New Facebook Members

Like Comment Share

9

...



Jaime

Kelly Hanley Michelle Gill woottt
like Reply

Jaime Kathryn
So you understand that this is about the school age kids in the Keene school district and not about partying, right?!

Jack Ireland
Fake news
Reply

Tyler Rehm
If you don't do the victory lap you did it

Kathi O'Brien Peterson
Oh boy!!
Reply

Warner Charles Pyne
I will be there.
like Reply 1



Jaime

Zach Lit

Craig James make room



Keene City Council approves pumpkin festival for October

Tyler Rehm

Larry James
Thank god for my 5th year

Frank Abbate Victory lap

Zach LR
Thank god for your fifth year

Leigha Hall
Kelly Hanley Michelle Gill woottt

Jaime Kathryn
So you understand that this is about the school age kids in the Keene school



Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Date: September 3, 2017
To: Medard Kopczynski, City Manager
From: Steven Russo, Police Chief
Subject: Pumpkin Fest 2017 – Security Concerns

Recommendation:

This memo is written for background and information purposes to assist City of Keene leadership in their decision making process.

Background

The history of the Pumpkin, or early Harvest Fest, is well known. The Festival itself, from a first responder perspective, began to increase dramatically in about 2009, with increased quality of life issues occurring in the City before and during the event. These events were not directly tied to the actual Pumpkin Fest event, but rather the event became used as a rally point if you will for large gatherings featuring music and alcohol by a segment of the younger population represented in Keene, as well as a very large amount of those demographics that travelled to Keene for the weekend of Pumpkin Fest. This demographic group consists of primarily Keene State College (KSC) students and out of town visitors, mainly from colleges throughout the area. Though the Pumpkin Fest itself was rarely, if ever, problematic except for a requirement to have a certain amount of, albeit very large, security, the outside events / parties became an unmanageable drain on resources and it became increasingly difficult to find those resources. These large gatherings also became more and more dangerous to those attending.

Those resources required for the event itself, and the associated large gatherings within the City but not part of the official event, increased proportionally as we responded to new challenges and threats, some based on events around the country, and the world, which made us rethink our security strategies. Those issues, combined with the past several years of increasing unrest centered on the Pumpkin Fest, taxed our resources to the breaking point.

By the time the event occurred in 2014, I believe we had been warning of the increased demand on first responders, increased erratic and dangerous behavior from those that were attending non-Pumpkin Fest parties in the City, almost exclusively in the Keene State College area, and the increasing lack of available first responders to provide the necessary security for the event itself and the outside activities. These activities in the last two or so years prior to

and including 2014 were fueled by social media advertising parties in or around KSC, which further fueled out of town travel to Keene by those wishing to attend large parties. In short, and unfortunately, the name Pumpkin Fest became associated with a reason to visit Keene and for those in off-campus KSC housing to host large, unmanageable parties, many just outside the footprint of Pumpkin Fest.

Given the history of activities surrounding the otherwise peaceful event, and the current conversations and angst by City Officials, citizens, and the College leadership, my primary question would be why would we want to host an event in which we have to plan for rioting?

It is a shame this has occurred, and is certainly not the face of Keene, or Keene State College. However, it did occur and the economic vibrancy of the City of Keene and Keene State College are tied together. Another event similar to 2014 could, and probably would, be devastating to both the City and KSC.

As to specific concerns the Police Department has, they include:

Resources:

-Available resources are listed as the number one issue we have. Currently we have planned for minimal police security in and around the event footprint. This has been planned at a very low number to assist in keeping the costs down to the sponsor and numbers for which the KPD can resource internally. However, no security or increased patrols have been resourced for before or after the event itself. This is not to say that the KPD, in conjunction with KSC, may not increase patrols somewhat that weekend due to it also being Halloween weekend (another negative addition to the date of this event), this is normally a busier weekend as to calls for service in the City, specifically college related calls for service.

-A quote from 2014's after action report, made by Lt. Shane Maxfield of the KPD indicates the difficulties we were having in manning the 2014 event:

"Shane Maxfield reported that he had issues again this past year procuring enough personnel. He anticipates it will be even more difficult for the 2015 event. We cannot mandate that outside agencies provide personnel and they are becoming less and less inclined to send their staff to cover this event. We did not have the deployment levels needed..."

-The event itself, though well planned, the number of attendees cannot be controlled. To say only X amount will attend is a very rough estimate. Of course less may attend. This has been true in past events, and this we feel we can manage to a certain degree. However, if attendance increase, it may overwhelm the secure area planned for the event. As in many things, the unknown are the risks associated with a "new" event.

Mitigation

- Regardless of the size of the event, day of the week, or time, if the college population has locked onto the weekend as a destination due to the name Pumpkin Fest via social media (primarily things like twitter and snapchat) it cannot be stopped.
- No amount of having other colleges in NH warn their students about the weekend will stop it – it will most likely only encourage more people to come. I believe KSC did in fact reach out to area colleges in the past as part of our preparation for past events.
- Warning landlords about allowing their tenants to violate their lease by hosting a party that turns into a riot is prudent planning, but the fact of the matter is that once the crowd starts to grow; neither they nor their tenants can stop it any more than the Police Department can with 50 Officers.
- Even if we wished to plan for contingencies, in this case meaning large gatherings and possible rioting, I cannot say for certain, even with unlimited funding, that we could voluntarily garner the proper security numbers. And to that question, what is the proper amount? In 2014 we had 120 pre-planned Law Enforcement Officers for the event and City operations. We still needed another 132 LE Officers by the end of the night. The pre-planned security estimates for 2014 were almost \$58,000. I do not know right now what the final cost was, but it was considerably less than it could have been as only one outside agency charged for the mutual aid call-out of 132 other Officers, and that was only for four Officers.

These are the primary concerns we have with the impending event. It is not for the Police Department to say if the event should be held or not, however the safety of the City and its residents are our concern, as they are the Cities. Unfortunately some events garner a reputation, whether deserved or not, and often it is only time that can change that. Given the known history of this event, it would almost be negligent to not plan and resource for large gatherings and possible violent activity.

The vast majority of college age people that have attended past events in Keene are here to just have a good time. However, their numbers contribute to the sheer volume of attendees and they may ultimately fall victim to a random beer bottle, brick, or cinder block as has happened at large gatherings in the past. Conversely, the very small majority that are prone to violent partying, for lack of a better term, are to some degree unwittingly protected and encouraged by the large number of those who wish no harm standing around them just trying to have a good time. This does not take into consideration the danger to Law Enforcement Officers and the general public.


There are steps to take to mitigate this; all have been used in the past, specifically in 2014, without overall success. KSC has done their part in the past to contribute to both planning and the mitigation of large gatherings. We can again take these steps, and to a higher level

if possible, but the successful outcome of avoiding a critical incident is still in question as is the question that if the event is not held, will they still come. No one can foresee that, which leads me to my first question of, if we have to plan for rioting, why we would host such an event.

City of Keene
NEW HAMPSHIRE
MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2017

TO: Medard Kopczynski, City Manager

FROM: Mark Howard, Fire Chief 

SUBJECT: Pumpkin Festival 2017- Public Safety Concerns

RECOMMENDATION

This informational memo is to provide the concerns of the Fire Chief related to the scheduled Pumpkin Festival 2017 event.

BACKGROUND:

Last week Chief Russo-KPD and I had the opportunity to meet with the new interim KSC President Melinda Treadwell and Vice President Kemal Atkins related to general public safety issues (year round) and the collaboration between Fire, Police and the College staff in meeting the needs.

During that discussion we talked generally about “large gathering events” and how we need to continue to work together to be proactive with prevention measures, have plans in place to respond when needed and also the need to hold those accountable for those actions. We agreed mutually that the collaboration of all involved is critical and will remain critical for the success.

President Treadwell then began to discuss her concerns with the 2017 Pumpkin Festival planned due to recent information she had received from her staff. President Treadwell went on to report that they had seen messaging on social media from alumni reporting that they were excited for the return of the Pumpkin Festival and that they would be back for the “party”. This information was not known to me or to Chief Russo before she shared the information.

The history of the Pumpkin Festival event has been shared with you by the memo provided by Chief Russo dated September 3, 2017. I concur with the history and concerns that Chief Russo has provided related to the 2017 Pumpkin Festival.

Specifically to the Fire/EMS concerns it comes down to resources and ability to deploy. The Fire Department has multi-disciplined response plans in place daily for Fire, Hazardous Material, Mass Casualty and other hazard incidents. What we lack are the personnel to respond when dealing with large events, gatherings and incidents.

The events and the deployment required for Fire and EMS resources during the 2014 Riots not only exhausted local resources it exhausted resources in the entire county and the ability to respond to other incidents in the county. The response personnel on duty at the time of the riots in 2014 were approximately 100 Fire and EMS personnel. An additional 50 were required before the event was concluded. Every Ambulance within 25 miles was sent to the City of Keene and School buses were used to also transport those injured.

The collaboration and review of intelligence related to events is at times a daunting fulltime task for the current City staff to maintain public safety at events. It also in some cases involves state and federal resources. The number of "large gathering events" continues to grow in our great community, with that the potential and risk to public safety as to be reviewed and planned for.

In the case where information leads us to concern over the ability to provide public safety it needs to be taken seriously and tough decisions at times need to be made.

Pumpkin Festival 2017 raised concerns for the Fire Chief and the Police Chief at the first protocol meetings held. At those meetings the sponsor was requested to consider another venue seeing this event was in collaboration with SAU-29, it was suggested to use KHS school property for the event. Concerns were also raised in what the event would be called and suggestion to sponsor to consider a different name. Finally the concern over the estimated attendance, attendance isn't controlled in an open venue such as Central Square and because of the history and success of past Pumpkin Festival could far exceed this year's expectations.

The minimal staffing plan put together by the Fire Department as we were pressed for a budget number was 6-8 personnel. This number was in line with deployment coverage for other similar sized expected attendance for the event (5,000-10,000). The staffing did not serve any purpose beyond the event boundaries and will not cover any issues that potentially escalate in the neighborhoods.

I conclude by asking that the City Manager and City Council reconsider the impact to the community if we were to have another bad outcome with an event that has a history of associated problems, and now information that alumni are coming back to "party".