

Merrimac 150th Celebration Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2025

Location: Merrimac Police Department Conference Room

Time: 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order.

PRESENT: Robert L. Gustison II, Julie Fisher, Michelle Gustison, Larry Fisher, Gretchen Fuhr

Members of Public: 4 attendees

II. Approve Minutes from previous meeting

1. Motion to approve minutes from 6Nov2025

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Gustison II

SECONDER: Fisher, J

AYES: Gustison II, L Fisher, Gustison, J Fisher, Fuhr

III. New Business

1. 150th Banners ordered through Northeast Ink. One will be hung at Town Hall and one at the Fire Department
2. Sponsorship / Sponsorship levels was discussed
3. Light Department Holiday Light Contest Fundraiser- Sponsored by the Merrimac Light Department. It is \$15 to register and the winner will receive \$150 off your electric bill. Three categories; Door decorating, Commercial, Home Light Display. Registration open now until Dec 15. Town Residents will start voting on Dec 16 for the winner. Light Department will announce the winner. Flyer went with Light Bill, information on website. Group was encouraged to get the word out
4. New Merchandise available- 150th Christmas Ornaments. The American Legion has agreed to purchase 150 ornaments for the committee to sell as fundraising. Ornaments will sell for \$10.
5. New Merchandise available- 150th Lawn signs they will sell for \$10.
6. Clothing Merchandise- decision was made to order additional inventory to get competitive pricing.
7. Santa Parade Float – confirmed trailer type. Float will feature a sleigh made in Merrimac with the Selectboard riding along. Still pending driver for float. Volunteers will assemble day before the parade at the fire station to decorate the float.

IV. POTENTIAL EVENTS/FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Members in parenthesis will research information on listed event/fundraising idea to present to Committee at a future meeting. Details were discussed.

Potential Fundraising Ideas:

- 2025 Holiday Light Contest
- Kick-off dinner/event- potentially winter event, promoted to all towns, including a silent auction.
- Pivoting on location- TBD ([Santagate](#))
- Food truck Party ([Fisher, L](#))
- Merchandise (t-shirts, sweatshirts, long sleeve shirt)
- Restaurant fundraisers (Little Caesars, Flatbread, Osaka, MHOP)
- Commemorative Coins

Potential Events:

- Santa Parade Float ([Fuhr](#))
- Time capsule ceremony- potentially have this ceremony on April 11, 2026. Potential to store the new time capsule in the old ballot box that will be displayed in a cabinet in town hall. ([Fisher, L](#))
- Youth involvement (essay contest, curriculum at school or library) ([Gustison, M](#))
- History Installations ([Fisher, L](#))
- Museum-style display at library (historical quilt, etc.) ([Fisher, J](#))
- Block Party in the Squircle
 - Commemorative installment
 - Parade
 - Concert/bands
 - Beer garden
 - Bonfire
 - Projection of Vintage Merrimac Home Movies Montage

V. SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING: December 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Merrimac Police Department Conference Room

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- Rob Gustison:
 - Recognize Northeast ink and American Legion on web site
 - Send email for volunteers to sell merchandise at tree lighting 7Dec and Santa Visit 13Dec
 - Email volunteers to see who is available to decorate Santa Float on Dec 6

- Email volunteers to see if anyone would like to assist with food donation and walk along float during parade
 - Add ornament and garden flag to website for purchase
- Gretchen Fuhr:
 - Update Sponsorship listing to include individual contributors and potential lower levels
- Lauren Santagate:
 - Reach out to The New Old Oak about Winter Kick Off event
 - Review potential silent auction items
- Julie Fisher:
 - Reach out to Library to set up history display in January
- Larry Fisher:
 - Reach out to Fiesta Shows to determine if a carnival is feasible.
 - Digitize photo from 100 years ago
 - Obtain coin prices with agreed front/back design
 - Price photo printing price for town wide photo
 - Contact Waterhouse field about food truck party in May
- Lauren / Kira/ Danielle
 - Reach out to restaurants about potential fundraisers
- Michelle Gustison:
 - Complete Merch reconciliation on what has been purchased thus far and send to Larry

V. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn the meeting

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Gustison II

SECONDER: Fisher, J

AYES: Gustison II, L Fisher, Gustison, J Fisher, Fuhr