



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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THURMONT ISSUES STATEMENT ON 2020 COLORFEST

At the June 23 weekly town meeting, the Thurmont Mayor and Commissioners continued the discussion that began the previous week during a workshop regarding the 2020 Colorfest. Colorfest occurs each year on the second weekend of October and typically draws over 100,000 visitors to Thurmont. After hearing the week before from community groups such as Catoclin Colorfest, Inc., the Guardian Hose Co., the Thurmont Community Ambulance Service, the Deerfield United Methodist Church, and the Edwin C. Creeger Post 168 American Legion, the mayor and commissioners held lengthy discussions on whether they should move ahead with planning for the event. The town provides services for Colorfest including bus service, sanitation, and additional security personnel. Competitive bids for services would need to be solicited in the next few weeks. Vendors and community groups who participate in the Colorfest activities throughout town have already started planning for the 2020 event and need to know now whether they should continue with their planning. After discussing all of these factors, the Thurmont Mayor and Commissioners issued the following statement:

“We find ourselves in the midst of a public health emergency and while we hope that the virus does not have a significant resurgence in the fall, the incidence of infection is predicted to increase. The only smart thing to do at this time is to rely on the science and make a decision now that will permit people to plan while also protecting the public. As we all know, Colorfest draws thousands of people each year and the possibility of increased infection in large gatherings is well established.”

We have considered and agree with the position of the Colorfest Committee that the Festival should not be held this year. We have an obligation to protect not just the residents of Thurmont but all those who visit Thurmont. Given the severity of the pandemic, we have determined that it is unsafe to proceed with the Festival as a matter of public health and safety. While we are disappointed that it cannot be held this year, we look forward to the Colorfest Festival in 2021.”

“This has been a difficult decision”, stated Mayor John Kinnaird. “The commissioners and I fully realize that all of the local non-profit organizations rely on Colorfest as their largest fund raising event each year. However, with this current public health emergency and the unknown impacts that lie ahead, we feel that public health and safety must be our highest priority”.

