

Q1: What should be the purpose of our winter/holiday celebration? In other words, What should we hope to achieve with a winter/holiday celebration?
Open-Ended Response
I want to see all winter holidays represented brightly and with decorations! Christmas, hanukah, all of it!
I would hope we would want to achieve capturing the magic of the holidays. Caroling, tree lighting is all part of the holiday season. Important to find a way to represent cultural holidays, too.
Togetherness, classic Christmas traditions and decor
Community coming together, in wonder of the Christmas season .
I think winter can be so dark, and so I love the idea of celebrating the solstice and the return of light!
Providing a town tradition that brings us together. I do not identify as Christian so Christmas had always been more of a USA holiday to be rather than a religious one. I see the xmas tree, carols, Santa, as part of that tradition. It is a celebration of winter.
Celebrate the whole month. Don't eliminate anything just add a few things.
INCLUSIVITY. Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, atheist, whatever should all feel welcome.
Providing a gathering outside in the depths of winter to remind all that we have each other as a community, and to celebrate traditions that are important to people.
Bring community together and enjoy sights and sounds of the holiday season.
Heighten a sense of community and joy in manifesting the spirit of celebration traditional in the depth of winter.
Winter joy! Lights, Music, Hot cocoa, Community coming together to celebrate. “ It’s the most wonderful time of the year.”
Fn family event for kids and families
I’m saddened that Christmas has been erased by the inclusivity effort. I applaud the moves towards inclusivity in many ways, but it’s a shame to downplay such a significant holiday that the majority celebrate. We can have Christmas trees and also have Hanukkah.
Fun for everyone with month long events
Gather many people to kick off the holiday season with joy
community gathering - celebrate everyone
Celebrate holidays
Brightness and joy in the ramp up to winter gloom
Celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah
in a word - 'Fun' is what we should achieve. And if local businesses are a little more profitable then that is a bonus
Reinforcing community and connections between people living here.
Make town main streets festive and bring people downtown
To celebrate the range of winter holidays. We bring light and cheer to the darkest months. To create opportunities for neighbors to gather.
Community gathering and traditions
A reason for all of us to get together to sing carols and light the tree.
To add some cheer to a very dark time of year.
To get people together and give folks a sense of community on some of the darkest days of the year.
Why can't there be a winter celebration and also a Christmas one. We seem to see all other ethnic holidays but it feels like Christmas is no longer acceptable in this town.
Peace, love, community acceptance of all
Celebrate holidays and be inclusive without eliminating Christmas
To continue to celebrate the Christmas Season and to bring people together in the town who choose to celebrate. For those choosing to celebrate Hanukkah or other holidays, they can have their celebration during the same time or choose another time.
build community
A visually welcoming small town feel
Bringing the community together to celebrate the holiday season
To celebrate the holidays of the season.
It's an opportunity to celebrate a holiday and a way that's inclusive for all. I think it's also an opportunity to have multiple events if people feel they need to have specific ideals. And we shouldn't one another for how we want to do it. However, I think the celebration should be focused on gathering the community. It is a special time of year regardless of faith.
Celebration, Joy, Light, Happiness
A time for the whole community to gather and enjoy the winter season.
Multi-holiday inclusion, festive and holiday-themed (Christmas and Hanukkah, and others). Gathering of community. Celebrating a new year.
promote happiness and joy
Community togetherness, family fun, brightening of dark winter days
Something festive and fun

Joy, connection and celebration!
Enhanced sense of community and inclusiion
The same as it has always been . A chance to get together with hopefully snow on the ground and celebrate all the things we should feel fortunate for
There are two equally important winter holiday celebrations, Christmas, and Hanukkah. Hopefully both will be well represented and celebrated publicly.
A sense of community and celebration! A party!
Community Gathering, Festive Feeling
To celebrate Christmas as it has always been celebrated.
Bring the community together to celebrate the joy of the holidays
A bright celebratory display of lights that invites our community to come together around town green and on Main Street in December and into the New Year.
Bringing the community together to celebrate Christmas
Build community, share traditions
Community gathering gathering during the dark winter months to celebrate the season and lift each others spirits
I think the purpose should be to celebrate and honor the multiple holidays and traditions that occur during this time of year
Bring community together
Bringing light and connection during the darker, colder months of the year.
A community celebration where people feel connected in a time of cold, dark, and sometimes isolation.
Tradition, family, Christmas trees, Santa
I think the town's winter celebration/ holiday celebration should respect the history of the town. As an immigrant myself, I may have other holiday traditions that I value and cherish but that should not detract away from historical celebrations and fe
Bring the community together
Celebrate the season -- inclusive of everyone!
build community
Celebrate a traditional American Christmas season.
To be festive and celebrate the holiday season.
It should be about celebrating the end of shortening days and the start of longer days. Let the churches handle the religious end (in this town, Santa and Christmas) on their own.
Community building! Festive decorations
Christmas traditions
Warm and welcoming event, that creates light, togetherness and connection (and sweets!) during the darkest coldest, most emotional time of year.
Bring the community together to celebrate the holiday season.
A gathering of community members, new and old, to celebrate the joy of the season and all the excitement it brings.
The holiday celebration is about bringing people together - of all ages - to celebrate the many holidays that happen that time of year and the returning light.
Celebrate the start of winter and the holiday season.
Building community, a festival of lights. A chance to celebrate the longest night and looking forward together.
Having fun in the depths of winter, getting people together and outside. Winter festival.
The celebration of the birth of Christ. This is what the holiday is about before it was commercialized. The celebration of family and the true reason of this special holiday.
A community gathering ushering in the holiday season.
The purpose of the "holiday" as you ask, is the celebration of Christmas , the birth of Christ. You also said you don't want to offend anyone? To not acknowledge Christmas for what it is, is offensive to me.
A fun way for all residents to participate in a winter event.
Purpose would be to increase community connection and promote festivity during the winter holidays.
Community bonding. A celebration of the beauty of winter. Celebratio of ice and snow--maybe snow sculptures and hot cocoa and skating on the pond?
community, a representation of the many differences brought together as a single celebration.
It would be wonderful to celebrate the multitude of holiday traditions/ religions/ beliefs. Wouldn't it be interesting to learn about your neighbors and experience something new to you?
Sense of community and holiday spirit
A community feeling of togetherness, a tradition we can all look forward to together and feel included together.
Community cheer and connection. Bringing community together.

it’s unfortunate that we don’t continue with some traditions that have been going on for years that simply celebrate Christmas for the spirit of giving, joy, Giving and sharing, friendship, laughter, and love. Having a tree lighting and singing, tr

additional Christmas carols and welcoming anybody in the community to participate is something we should have every year. It's something that we sorely miss.

Q2: How might it look? What are your specific ideas for format, activities, timing, location, and other aspects?
Open-Ended Response
Christmas trees! Menorah! Santa stuff! General presents/garlands/lights decorations! Then New Years!
Bring back the tree lighting and caroling - make the green a winter wonderland. Hot cocoa is a must! Beginning of December celebration will give the town time to enjoy the festive environment. Other cultural elements should be included and invitatio
Christmas decorations around main Street. Christmas tree lighting, Carol singing, Santa visit
I'd really like to see a Town Christmas tree, and a lighting ceremony, with the singing of Carols. It would be nice to have cocoa and cookies/ donuts, available, and maybe the opening of Santa's little house, on that day.
I wish the town would make the downtown more festive and light things up or have some greenery. I don't think it has to be one holiday specifically. In New Gloucester we used to have a day to light a tree and we sang songs together. It was very Chris
A Christmas tree, carols, Santa, cocoa cookies. It would be nice to go back to the previous format so that the tradition can continue. I feel tradition and ritual are important way to create community cohesion.
Lights lights lights. White lights on all the trees on the park. Lights celebrate everyone!
Town lawn is great and central. It could be a rolling, month long thing with different events Unpredictable weather means you have to be flexible.
In front of town hall makes sense as a gathering place, and I would be most attracted to come if there were hot drinks, tree lighting, and some singing.
Include lights, community based groups for music, activities for our children. I miss the Christmas tree lighting with the school chorus and band, along with the excitement of Santa coming for the little ones. Although I think most of Yarmouth is Christi
Lights! All kinds, all over the place. Gatherings in public places for warm seasonal drinks and food (mulled cider and donuts?). Winter, or maybe solstice communal suppers—not religious but still celebrating the season and community spirit. Lights
Would love to see lights on lamp posts throughout town. Snowflakes and lights to brighten the nights during the short days of winter.
Lots of lights music and hot chocolate. I love the candles too. I think early December.
Christmas trees!!!
Store front decorations, window painting contest, expanded home decorations, lights through town, sing along, ice skating parties
I miss when we had a beautiful large tree, countdown to it being lit, followed by carols and hot cocoa. It was wonderful and I don't know of anyone who ever felt excluded
Sing Christmas carols
Sparkly, active, accessible, some things that are not kid-focused (some of us are empty nesters). Space for faith-based celebrations.
Tree/Menorah lighting. Encourage people of the community to add items to the tree to celebrate the holiday that is important to them. No candle on a stick lighting. Invite school chorus and sing winter songs (think back to school holiday concerts whe
I would have an event at the public skating rink - maybe a Smore's event over the fire to attract even people who do not skate
Inclusive- are there several holidays at the same time? Have a piece from each. Is one holiday celebrated differently? Opportunity to expand our own traditions and experiences.
Tree lighting or festive lights on main street
I loved the community event last year. I also love the school (pto?) skating events at the pond and wonder of there is a way to have events there/bring holiday cheer into that space?
The old way worked well but by all means we can include other holiday traditions but please bring back the tree lighting and carols
We should all gather on the town green in front of the town hall to light the tree and sing carols. Maybe even have some hot cocoa available (I know local businesses that would sponsor) and hopefully the Lions Club could have their Santa there to take
Santa visits, holiday lit tree/trees, cocoa and choral. I thought that the change to flat planted lit things this past year was tacky.
I liked the fire pits. Much nicer to be outside with the potential to warm up. If you do lights, do LIGHTS! Make it bright, awesome and inviting just like the wonderful hearts of many Yarmouth residents. Last year's display needs to be kicked up several r
I have always loved the town christmas caroles & santas cabin
Tree lighting is such a great tradition
The traditional tree lighting in front of the town office in December with Christmas and holiday music, hot chocolate, cookies, campfire and marshmallows as in the past.
Ice skating
i helped plan the first pond party; back then, there was music, skating, food, games and art activities, that was fun
Warm white lights, strung or in a design along Main Street
Could be a winter carnival type event with Ice skating at blake pond, tree lighting by town hall and horse drawn carriages throughout town, and restaurants on main st celebrating the season. There could also be an opportunity for boosters to get invo
Bring back the lighting of the Christmas Tree, caroling, Santa.
For one bring back to traditional Santa house for kids to come and make Santa aware of something they love to get for Christmas. I think it's a wonderful opportunity for kids and something very memorable for families. Continue with the tree lighting ;
Whole I think celebrations can acknowledge a number of occasions I am a strong advocate for bringing back the Christmas tree on the day of the Christmas fairs at the churches and other locations. This is not to exclude anyone else but every other To
Town center, downtown- lights, greens, singing
I loved the times we had hot chocolate and skating and music when my kids were younger. But, I think having outdoor events for all ages is great.
Decorations on town hall grounds. Multiple opportunities/gatherings to learn about holidays and celebrate, culminating in one big all-town celebration. Music, food, games/activities for kids, teen-led something
Christmas Tree, Christmas carols - maybe a school chorus participates, Christmas lights, christmas trees and wreaths for sale
Tree lighting, hot cocoa, caroling on the town green in front of town hall
Christmas tree lighting

Ice skating, Christmas tree lighting, lights and music

I am satisfied with the status quo. ESP like fairs first weekend in Dec and community carol sing

The same as it has been for years that people have enjoyed for years. It is a tradition after all.

A town Christmas tree and menorah should be maintained. The tree lighting and bonfire were great. We look forward to seeing the small hut for Santa and the mailbox for letters placed on the town green... This is a great tradition

I would really like to see lots of lights and some Christmas trees.

Love the tree lighting and santa booth/cookies

Christmas Tree, with lights, turned on the day after Thanksgiving. If other organizations wish to decorate, there are several parks in town where they could do that

I loved the tradition of our tree lighting, caroling, school bands

Lights, displays that showcase all holidays that take place at the end of the calendar year (LLB did a wonderful job of this a year ago)

Traditional tree-lighting, caroling candy canes hot cocoa and santa claus

Beautiful lights on the green that honors December holidays of our community members and beyond

Warm fire, colorful bright lights, hot coco, togetherness

I'd like to see a a tree lighting ceremony, from the Nordic tradition. Maybe a Winter Solstice event, like a bonfire. And a Santa Shack from whatever culture that came from.

Light the tree & sing carols; hot cocoa

I live the light display in front of town hall. Community ice skating invitations are great. Any other events that inspire people to get together outdoors. Things that might inspire acts of service. I do love the idea of the light decoration map - if people want to

A winter solstice celebration would be lovely. Or something that happens during the same weekend as the holiday fairs in town. It could involve ways for the community to interact together. It should take place at a time that's not too late or too dark to see

Bright lights at town square, big tree, meet Santa

I'd honestly would prefer we return to the old holiday tree lighting. with hymns, lighting of the tree, Santa Claus. last years festivity was blah. sorry to the planners, like your survey statement above, I think they tried to be inclusive and not "offend" anyone

Multi cultural/religious

Snow festival, ice sculptures, activities for kids, etc.

decorations and a few public events, mostly family oriented

Christmas lights on Main street by town hall, Santa's workshop that we used to have EVERY YEAR

I always liked the carol sing along and hot chocolate and tree lighting. We could also have some other decorations for other holidays as well.

Lights on the green, skating activities on the Frog Pond, sledding at the quarry, with potluck.

Lighting the green, community get together

Christmas tree in town park

light! music! food! crafts! s'mores! Totally not religious. Use the town memorial green.

Fill memorial green with holiday themed decorations, including a Christmas tree. I think Westbrook has done an incredible job with decorations over the past few years. I would dare say Westbrook is a more diverse community than Yarmouth. Last year was great

Holiday tree. Some may still call it a Christmas tree, but a decorated tree lit up on the memorial green for all to see and celebrate as they pass by during the season. Santa hut for those who choose to visit.

The lighting of a tree with singing and candles is the perfect way to do this. It doesn't need to be about "Christmas". Many religious traditions use light as a symbol of that time of year. And a tree is a symbol of Maine!

I loved the tradition of the tree lighting. Carols, winter solstice, hot chocolate, whatever. Just don't cancel.

lights, candles, singing hopeful songs. Actually a New Years celebration might make more sense and leave the pre-Christmas focus to the churches that could do something jointly if they want.

Just, please, no fireworks! Shouldn't be snow dependent.

I really enjoyed the Carol song with the high school chorus and band. Is there a way to bring that back workout people feeling excluded?

Put up a Christmas/holiday tree.

Don't know.- not a very good event planner.

I think the local volunteer organizations (and maybe local businesses as well) should be welcomed to add whatever elements they'd like to offer to the Holiday Fair Saturday. It would be fine to add an additional celebration day closer to Christmas, and

Snow sculpture, hot cocoa, skating behind the log cabin, group snow events like x-country skiing. Lights (non-religious) on town hall lawn. I do not think that symbols of Christmas or any religious holiday belong on town hall lawn (including Santa Claus)

December/January/Winter is a time of many celebrations around the world from religious in origin to pagan to cultural. I would love to see a blend of this. The celebration of light is prevalent; lighted trees, menorah, kinara, lanterns. Singing is also a common

How about good old fashioned white lights and wreaths- very classic and not related to religion.What wasn't working about the Christmas Tree lighting and caroling? We can add to that and let people volunteer to share their traditions.

Cohesive displays down Main Street with some sort of light decoration

A gathering of everyone together to light a big display (tree and menorah, or just huge awesome light sculpture), followed by a wandering up and down Main St to see performers, hot cocoa huts, craft tables, bake sales, etc.

Tree lighting ceremony. Continue the Cookies and cocoa. The s'mores and lantern making were great last year. Carol singing with student musicians.

an based, include symbols of other religions who celebrate holidays around that time of year. A solstice based celebration is too late in the season to generate a lot of support. Having something the same day as all the church fairs and craft fæ

and singing Christmas carols. Of any and all denominations. And if there's need to have any other specific nights, welcome it and make the public aware that anybody can come and participate. It's great for people to understand what other cu

d invite more folks to participate if they'd like. Maybe the Chamber would coordinate. If local churches want to schedule specific and/or joint holiday activities (such as caroling), these can totally be promoted as part of the festivities, but shou

uld remain peripheral, not the "main event". It may be that the first decision to be made is whether to have a fully secular winter carnival-type celebration in January (when the pond is reliably frozen), rather than having it overlap with Christn

Q3: What should be the Town’s role? Multiple organizations and individuals might help with the celebration – it takes a village! – but what aspects should the Town take responsibility for?
Open-Ended Response
Decorating the town :) Ask for volunteers if needed, but some array of music/food/events. Yarmouth should feel special!
The town should take care of the supplies, like the cocoa, candles for caroling, lights, etc., Unless there is a business that sponsors such things. The town should hang the lights and install anything else that needs to be brought in and assembled.
Putting up decorations around town, providing space and resources for Christmas tree and lighting ceremony
The town helps to procure a tree(I assume they have lights, etc.), but if not, the chamber of Commerce could perhaps help in this way. The Town would also put the lights on the tree, in preparation of a lighting ceremony. It would be fun if the H.S. a
I don’t know. Decorating?
The same role they did before. I think YCS maybe organized it, the yhs student bad played and Lions club did Santa
How about you start with merchants, volunteer orgs, and others? Is this something the town should be responsible for? They are kind enough to offer space and planning power through YCS. But if you’re going to invoke Yarmouth then you better mak
Lights on the tree
Lighting. Christmas tree procurement and placement. Design of placement of the symbols (menorah for example) or I liked the snoopy skating rink last year. Also timing and coordination of other groups.
Lights on town property. Making space available for the celebratory gatherings I mentioned. Facilitating publicity for any groups wanting to put on such events, though not overtly religious. I think we can celebrate the season without seeming to prom
Lights. Most towns are lit during the winter. It would be cheerful to see the lights through the winter
Time and place. Decorations to represent different winter celebrations including Christmas and Hanukkah
Stringing lights, decorating a center of town tree, providing equipment an labor where needed
Organizing the time and activity
The town businesses should help promote the activities that would be scheduled and offer some one-day specials to attract customers to their establishments
Not knowing what the town historically has done vs contributors, location, planning support, vendor access (if needed/existing contracts or relationships), marketing
Lights
The town seems like the primary organizing body. Unless the chamber wants to be more involved? It seems like in towns where there are more lights/events, the business community, either individually or together, takes an active role, along with to
A tree and lighting
Organizing the tree lighting and finding others to coordinate the caroling (a community member, school music teacher, or someone from 317 Main are a few ideas). Also to just ask other local community members & organizations to help contribute w
Good question. I don't have much of a reference point on this, but can say that I preferred the decorations and tree lighting prior to 2023. The changes that were made this past year were not in my opinion favorable.
Get some awesome LED decorations/lights to make an awesome display that can be used again and again. If folks want an event make space available on the town green or skating rink, RR park or whatever. Coordinate with community groups who wa
I feel that the limited decorating by the town WORKS. I love the beautiful, simple, new england wintertime. I feel the town should not use OVERLY religous symbols (cross, star of David, etc.)
Not letting the far left or far right take over planning
There should be more events in Yarmouth to include, not exclude, the traditional tree lighting and Christmas/Holiday celebration. A tree can be donated and trees can be sold by the Lyons Club to raise money for scholarships. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, c
not sure
Hanging a consistent theme of simple white lights on municipal buildings and in the Village
Town could take responsibility for organizing the platform to get other organizations involved - ie getting sponsorships (again, think mini clam festival)
Provide permission to use the town green. Holiday decorations along Main Street, etc.
Offering locations for events to be held? Working with any organizations in the planing
The town should put up a Christmas tree on the town green and anything else that might be celebratory for other holidays. There could be a committee of volunteers that assist with the other aspects such as Santa Claus. It would be nice to see if some
Organizing, decorating, advertising
The town seems best for arranging a location, advertising, and helping to to the high level organizing.
Organizing community groups to lead decorations, traditions, gatherings if they want their groups particular holiday included in the celebration. Some funding. Location (town hall). Advertising.
the town should be responsible for the lights, christmas tree, and infrastructure to support the crowd and parking
Provide the tree and someone to decorate/light it. Advertise. Organize someone (booster group?) to sell hot cocoa and someone to provide sheet music (choral director at a school?) , non religious songs.
the tree!

Lighting bridges and public buildings

Decorations. Maybe a fund various groups can apply for?

The same as it always has . We’ve come to expect it as a town. A few rotten apples shouldn’t spoil the basket.

I think the town should continue to handle the displays that have been done in the past. This year due to the unfortunate increase in anti-Semitic violence, greater attention will need to be placed on preventing a menorah from being destroyed or damaged.

Lighting trees in parks and community areas

Town could help organize.

Town should assist with putting lights in trees, patrol various parks designated for decorations/gatherings, ensure decorations are removed when holiday is over

Tree & decorations

Funding and actual set up

Encouraging people to unite and celebrate at the town square as we have done for so many years

Conductor of the orchestra!

No religion from Yarmouth community services, highlight Main Street, decorate town hall trees that are already there, welcome town organizations to participate

I think the Town should off-load most of the work. Maybe asks groups or individuals submit their proposed events, and have the Town choose a certain number of them. The groups would need to execute them, with guidance from the Town.

Supply the tree & lights

I prefer that anything hosted but the town stay secular. No events or decorations that highlight a specific faith’s celebration. So light displays that are seasonal, not Christmas-focused. Caroling that celebrates the season, not specifically Christmas. Hap

Organization and promotion of the event

Town tree!

the government should have no role. the town should offer municipal space as needed or requested per usual town policy

Ensuring all views are expressed.

Any sort of festival on Main St. -- bringing everyone together

overall coordination and making sure festivities represent all cultures, religions, etc

However the town managed it 20 years ago, do the same thing. Do some research.

The tree lighting and decorations?

The town should have no role than general public safety.

Lights/decorations

To make the celebration for the children,not being political.

It should not be religious. The high school band/chorus should play non denominational songs. The town could provide food and light and just as it has in the past, inspire a town-wide home-lighting.

Celebrating the holiday season is what makes a community special. Spending a few thousand dollars on decorating and hosting a special event makes our community valuable and makes our high tax burden slightly more acceptable.

What do other towns do? Freeport, Portland? What involvement do they have in their town holiday celebrations?

The town should coordinate it - via community programs. To create a village we need events that bring us together.

Light the tree.

This is at night in December and it is often very cold. I don't know how much time people want to spend outside AND it is dark. That adds logistical challenges.

Depends on what the plan is.

The date, the lights, and the location

Let people celebrate the Christmas season in their own way. Stay out of it and save the taxpayers money.

Infrastructure and support.

I don't think the town should have much, if any, official role. The Town's role should be limited to offering the Town Green or other public spaces.

The town could be the central organizer, if staff have the bandwidth. It would be nice to have some non-religious light decorations on town hall lawn (like last year's penguines or the balls of light we see so many places nowadays).

The town should be the lead organizer that brings everyone together, this would ensure a cohesive celebration without overlap or gaps.

I think it would be reasonable to expect the town to be able to provide whatever decor is decided upon, and then ask for volunteers for anything else.

The town should host these events and public works folks should assist with the decorating and maintenance

Promotion, Public safety, town hall lawn lights

Coordinate and publicity. Plant the tree.

nd M.S. bands would play carols for the sing along.Then civic groups could volunteer to supply cookies and cocoa, and man the tables, passing those things out to the public.

Q4: Any other comments or input to help us plan the winter/holiday celebration?
Open-Ended Response
Thank you for asking and hopefully we will see and enjoy a lovely holiday season in Yarmouth this year!
Create a committee - a liaison group that brainstorms and plans - including contacting bands, choirs, sponsors, etc., and communicates with the town regarding needs and such. I think welcoming ideas from underrepresented groups would be nice, too.
Traditional New England/Maine Christmas should not be lost. It is a part of who we were.
Last year's lack of a Town Christmas tree, or any type of Christmas merriment, made the Town feel dreary! I know of many who mentioned the lack, with disappointment. This lack of Christmas recognition, also sent many of our town citizens to other towns.
Good luck! Hard to please so many different folks! Thanks for asking questions!
I believe the changes made recently were to try to be inclusive and not focus on 1 religion but thatvleft put the importance of maintaining a US cultural tradition that really for many of us is not a religious holiday. I hope we can preserve the celebration.
Whatever you come up with, remember, it must welcome all comers and if you want town help, that costs time and dollars. Which is fine but don't attack them if it's not exactly what your unicorn visions were.
Try not to ruin a good thing. Just because a few people complained about inclusion doesn't mean to eliminate something that so many people have enjoyed for so many years. Bring back the high school chamber singers and the high school babb. It has been a tradition for years.
I think we should celebrate the season without promoting any particular religion.
Celebrate every holiday with displays that entertain and educate
Was what we were doing not working?
Would some business put up a nice prize for a Photo Contest? The theme could be Winter things to do in Yarmouth?
Growing up in town, it was never really about how we were celebrating for me and my peers, but that we were coming together to celebrate as a community. For the Christmas celebration- HMS/YHS musicians playing, singing, hot drinks and snacks, a tree, and a carol service.
Maybe form a committee of townspeople to be in charge with a town administrator
Let's not go back t9 christmas trees only
I hope the tree lighting & caroling will be back this year!!
Make it fun. I don't think inclusivity means definitely don't have a tree or menorah. I think these events are a good opportunity for folks to share their own cultures and experiences through food, clothing, and warmth.
I love Yarmouth. I have always loved this traditional New England villiage. Change is good and nessary, but pleass stop alienating people that have been here years and loved the simple life and lack of political & etc causes attached to everyrhing.
Hanukkah, Christmas and Eld al-Fire and Atlan-i-Ha are all important
As mentioned before, there can be numerous celebrations or combined celebrations. We all have a choice whether or not we want to attend an activity.
no
Designate one or two evenings for walking Main Street, music at Bickford Pavilion, that's it
A return to traditional celebrations.
In terms of celebrating the religious parts of the "Holiday" season that it is best left to the local religious institutions. If the town were going to focus on the religious aspects of the holiday, it might be to bring multiple religions together to share their traditions.
I think you can maintain a tradition without offending people

Keep it fun and festive!

There are some people in life that just aren't happy and there's nothing anyone can do to cure that. Everybody at some point in life is going to feel excluded. That is life. To tear down and recreate something we have already have is wrong. They are trying to fix what is broken. These are wonderful traditions, hopefully the town will not fall. Pray to wake ideology that moves away from these traditions. I understand that people want things to feel inclusive to all religions but pleasing everyone is going to be impossible. I really don't see the harm in having a Christmas tree.

Stop reading too much into it; it is supposed to be a time of peace and reflection; celebrating Christmas is a quiet, beautiful tradition that welcomes everyone to enjoy. I am not religious and do not celebrate Christ. A tree is a pagan symbol of everlasting life and fertility.

Don't call it a winter/holiday celebration. It's a Christmas celebration. And it can be a Hannukka celebration. And when muslims gather to celebrate Ramadan, call it Ramadan, not 'summer holiday'. People want to respect religious traditions in public. I think a focus on light makes sense as ALL of the December holidays come back to the return of the light in some way. I like new traditions and the opportunity for Yarmouth to create something new together I'm not religious, but I thought the town green looked sad last year. I'd be happy to see any religions traditions, including the pagan ones that have been adopted by other religions. I'm happy to nominate my husband, Kevin McGrath, to spearhead this.

Thank you for being thoughtful of the diverse celebrations of community-members. I would hope that the town chooses to do a more general winter celebration as opposed to something overtly connected to a particular religion

If people are "offended" by historical traditions or celebrations then they should not attend. Rather I would encourage these individuals/groups who have other holiday traditions which they respect and celebrate, share their new celebrations with the town. I'm not against religious symbols like Christmas trees or creche scenes, but expense and placement should be responsibility of the churches downtown, not the Town. Stop trying to change town traditions by creating solutions in search of a problem. There was never a problem with how Christmas season was managed, go back to what works.

Its about the KIDS.... Non religious. Yarmouth has 4 churches on Main St. and 1 on Princes Point. There is no shortage of Christian celebration opportunities outside of the home in this town. This is not the Town's role. One of the attendees tonight said it best, by saying just because she didn't celebrate Christmas, doesn't mean everyone else can't either. "And" is inclusive, while washing the holidays is alienating everyone. People moved to this town for all things great that we do. Once they are here they try to change our traditions, the traditions that made this town what it is and attracted them to move here. Build on what we had, don't take it away. You can't make everyone happy. Please do not get rid of this cherished town tradition. We are becoming more and more divided as these events continue to go away. We should be creating and celebrating them even more rather than getting rid of them. If you're trying to move away from the idea of a tree lighting, just stick with winter solstice. You could have a kid focused New Years holiday.

Its disappointing how much the town has changed. I dont agree that everyone attends the town tree lighting. We attended when we had young kids and loved it but not after they got older. I rarely saw seniors there. It was primarily young families. I'm 77 and am enthusiastic about some kind of town event. This could be a joyous and wonderful mini/winter version of Clam Festival, or it could be a huge and burdensome effort made by an already overwhelmed volunteer and Chamber group. Keeping it simple and adding on to the already existing Holiday Lights. I feel like Scrouge complaining about a celebration. But I feel uncomfortable about decorations that are tied to a religious holiday on town hall lawn, and that includes Santa Claus (sorry, Mrs. Bowie, I love you and your Mrs. Claus). Even if we had decorations that were not religious. Thank you for putting this whole question out there, the negative comments from last year were really a downer. It's difficult for volunteers to make everyone happy but we should appreciate the work. My one comment from last year is that I couldn't see the harm in having a tree decorated with lights. I guess I just don't understand why we must do away with everything if not, everyone wants to participate. I truly don't see the harm to anyone and having a tree decorated with lights. Call it what you want, a Christmas tree holiday tree whatever. It does not need to be secular but not having something makes a great town so very lame! The carols and hot chocolate and lighting of the tree was nice but I think doing some research we could do some very lovely community building and inclusive event. As a Jew, I'm really frustrated by all the people who keep saying that "Christmas isn't religious," or that a Christmas tree isn't religious or Santa isn't religious. That is a very Christian-centric view where your frame of reference is religious Christians and not the town. The "Christmas" tree is pagan, it has nothing to do with Christianity other than being adopted by Christianity to convert pagans. It is not religious. It is a symbol of light. Plant a tree in the space in front of town to be lit each year.

ng to provide for themselves what the Christmas Tree celebration has brought to many for years .What a selfish thing to do. I think it’s safe to say The Christmas tree lighting and celebration is an extension of the Thanksgiving day celebration I

town of Yarmouth. We can create new, non traditional holiday memories...sharing food, history, stories and festivities. The more new parties, the better. rather than have 1 big town holiday celebration, break it down into 4 and we can cele

tions for more than one religious holiday--like adding a menorah--the whole process defies the concept of separation of Church and state. To be clear, I am Catholic. I sent my kids to Catholic school. And I love Christmas. I also enjoy town cele
i't understand the absence of a lighted tree but the presence of Santa Claus. I don't have a problem with Santa as part of the celebration, but he is rooted in Christian faith where as the tree is more diverse. Just an observation that it seemed

I non-religious Christians. To a Jew, anything Christmas is religious. I don’t think non-religious Christians, who are talking about the “cultural” aspects of Christmas, should get to dictate whether or not the holiday is religious. By definition, it is a

n many ways. If somebody or some people want to start a new tradition in town, then that’s a conversation they have But to Take A tradition that brings Happiness and a sense of community to so many people to be replaced by a small minor

brate all winter. each celebration can have its own theme.team. let that individual teams build and create these festivities....foster a small competition between these teams and it will drive interest and hopefully better celebrations

ity is wrong and I hope community service does not give in to this group