

JAMESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Jan. 8, 2015

Cathleen Studley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the absence of President Rusty Sallee.

PRESENT: Executive Director John McCauley, and Board Members, Jeff Bush, Kimberly Gregorzek, Petra Laurie, Sonya Morton-Ranney, Cathleen Studley, Mark Swistak, Ben Thomas and Kristine Trocki.

ABSENT: Maria Flood, Marilyn Munger, Rusty Sallee.

The minutes of the December 4th meeting previously sent via email were accepted.

Treasurer's report – The Treasurer's report previously emailed was approved. Currently \$22,098.89 in the General account and \$ 8,957.09 in the Chamber Check account.

Executive Director – John McCauley will begin running the ad for the new Executive Director, and Marilyn Munger will head the search committee. 98 out of 123 Chamber membership renewals have been received and this has resulted in additional funds in the General account.

Old & New Business/Committee Reports:

Membership: Mark Grosby, Esq. is a new member. John will send out 2015 membership renewal notices.

Government: Mark, John and Gene Mihaly met with Andrew Nota re the Downtown, and a think tank group is being organized by Gene Mihaly to discuss business closing, empty buildings, and the general main street retail situation.

Marketing: John passed out a Kiosk proposal for the East Ferry area that was discussed at the recent Marketing meeting. Town involvement to make the kiosk a joint venture is desired. A motion was passed to ask the Town to provide and maintain the kiosk, and for the Chamber of Commerce to oversee staffing. The nominee for 2015 Small Business Person of the Year was discussed and John will contact the person and follow through if she desires. The Member survey was emailed January 2 and there was a good response so far. The results will be discussed at a Chamber breakfast on Thurs. Jan 29th at the Narragansett Café. Jeff will moderate the discussion, with Petra assisting. John will resend the survey prior to the breakfast for an opportunity for others to complete.

Events:

Recap- Christmas Party – agreed a good event at a difficult venue, and thanks were expressed to the committee for arranging on short notice after Plantation closed.

Other Holiday events, - Santa arrival in the rain and the tree lighting went well given the weather. The Teddy Bear Tea was a success, with both seatings at capacity. Spinnakers did a great job hosting.

BAH with the Southern RI Chamber at the Whalers Brewery in Peacedale was a good party but difficult to network. We will follow that Chamber for other events.

Upcoming:

2015 Breakfast series – Thursday, Jan 29 will be the first one, 7:30 a.m., Narragansett Café, with the Chamber Survey as the Agenda.

February and March breakfasts are being arranged by Mike Swistak.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Next Meeting - Thursday, February 5th, 5:30 PM, at Bridges. Ryan Miller will come and speak on the RI Boat Show.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Morton-Ranney
Secretary