

**Jamestown Chamber of Commerce
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, July 6, 2017
5:30pm
Bridges Conference Room**

**Present: Monique Paquin (Executive Director), Ben Thomas, Mark Swistak, Jr., Jeff Bush,
Kristen Petrarca, Peggy Kopelcheck, and Bill Piva.**

1. **Call to Order:** Maria was absent, so Jeff Bush (VP) called meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. **Board Position Interviews:**
 - a. 5:30 p.m.: Donna DeFusco – was unable to attend last minute.
 - b. 5:40 p.m.: Ramona Bessinger – was unable to attend, but sent an email with her interest and qualifications.
 - c. 5:50 p.m.: Ernie Savastano – spoke about new Olive Oil business on island, previous board experience, and desire to get involved.
 - d. 6:00 p.m.: Aly Johnson – one of the new owners of East Ferry Deli, expressed her interest in getting more involved with the Chamber and Island.
3. **Minutes of May & June Meetings:** previously emailed. Mark made a motion to accept both May and June's minutes. Bill 2ndd, all were in favor.
4. **Treasurer's Report of May & June:** Cathleen was unable to attend, but sent the balances. General Account \$22,315.24, Chamber Check Account \$6,293.80. Ben made motion to accept the report, Mark 2ndd, and all were in favor.
5. **Executive Directors Report:** Monique filed the annual report. Sent letter to the new businesses in Town to see if they wanted to join. Fuller Art Gallery joined and she is doing an Open House on July 19th at 6pm. Chamber members are encouraged to come to a Ribbon Cutting at 5:45pm just before. Monique also reported that Live and Learn has asked to do a Ribbon Cutting, will follow up with times and date. ED spreading the new maps around, some are already asking for more. Well received. ED also sent 15 new homeowner postcards out.
6. **Old & New Business/Committee Reports:**
 - i. **Events:** [Committee: Mark, Ben, Peggy & Maria]
 1. Recap/Feedback - Ferry Charter – Lower attendance than hoped – 33 guests. Bill from Conanicut was \$750, so still waiting to see if we made money on it.
 2. Potential Rhode Island Bridge & Turnpike Authority Discussion/Meeting :

Maria was unable to attend, but was reaching out to them on dates and times.

3. Weenie Roast (7/20/17 - 5:30 p.m.): 24 RSVPs so far. Board to find Corn hole game. Maria will get the food, etc... from BJs. Mark and Jeff will bring coolers. Iain, Ben, and Bill will coordinate alcohol pick up from Grapes and Jamestown Wine. Mark and Maria will handle grilling. Ben and Bill will handle set up of bar. Board members are asked to try to come help set up at 4pm.
4. Potential End of Summer Party/Fundraiser: Continued Discussion –

Still waiting on confirmation of the date, but looks like Sept 23rd. Events committee to have a meeting on 7/19 after the Open House at Fuller Art Gallery. All interested meeting at Bay Voyage at 6:30pm. Will have several silent auction items, raffle items, and 50/50. DJ as well. Cost should be lower than Night At. Do manual tickets, each board member gets 10 to bring people in.
5. Potential Fool's Rules Participation:
 - a. Organizers were hoping to have Jamestown Restaurants put out tents with food to pass out. Logistically tough for licenses and preparing food.
6. Potential Newport Polo:
 - a. Maria brought this up previously. She was unable to attend, so we will continue the discussion at another meeting.
7. Potential Joint SRI Chamber Event: \
 - a. May invite them to the September event if we can't get enough with just our members. If not, try to do a winter joint event. Too busy in the Summer.
8. Potential Golf Tournament:
 - a. Golf course had expressed not wanting to add tournaments. Will see if he will allow us to do one in October. Ben will follow up.
9. Potential Fireworks Participation:
 - a. Skeptical if we are able to perform the full duties. Possibly just donate more of our time to take burden off of Rocket Hogs. We will ask Bob Bailey to attend a meeting in the near future to see the involvement we could offer.

- b. Government Relations:** [Committee: Jeff, Bill]
1. 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Town Monies - Remaining balance of \$2,040.00 was paid by Town to the Press directly for the Map.
 2. 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Town Monies (\$4,000.00) Available to promote members/community.
 3. East Ferry Project
 - a. Lots of members in attendance at last Planning Meeting, it was received and a new plan compromised. Keeps pattern the same, but adds wider sidewalk on water. Now goes to the Town Council for a 7/17 meeting. Ask members to continue to voice their opinion at this meeting. Not over.
- c. Marketing/Public Relations:** [Committee: Ben, Peggy, Iain]
- d. Membership** [Committee: Maria, Jeff, Bill]
1. Update – 111 members. New member Fuller Art Gallery. 16 new members this year, with 17 dropping off.
 2. Fulfillment of Vacant Board Member position – met with the there interviewees. Board will discuss and see how to proceed. All strong candidates.
- e. Finance** [Committee: Cathleen, Susan]
1. Annual Budget – Cathleen not present. Will put on next Agenda as well.
 2. Online Pre-Payment/Ticketing/Registration Options:
 - a. Decided to wait for Cathleen and Susan to be present since the burden would fall on them. They had a strong opposition view to doing this, so not fair to vote without their input.
- f. Notes**
- g. Board Member Terms**
1. **2015-2018**
 - a. **Peggy (First term)**
 - b. **Bill (2017-2018 Completion of Rusty’s 2nd term, then eligible for (2) additional 3-year terms (2018-2021, 2021-2024))**
 - c. **Mark (Second term)**
 2. **2016-2019**

- a. Ben (Second term)
- b. VACANT—[Marilyn] (Second term)
- c. Cathleen (Second term)
- d. Maria (Second term)

3. 2017-2020

- a. Jeff (Second term)
- b. Susan (First term)
- c. Kristen (First term)
- d. Iain (First term)

Meeting adjourned 6:40pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 5:30pm