



Kearsarge Area Chamber of Commerce
September 21, 2010, Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Laura French (Pres.) Woody Pringle (Director)
 Cindy Barrett-Dumais (Treas.) Bob Lutz (Director)
 Mike McChesney (Director) Brian Hotz, NH Forest Society

Brian Hotz of the NH Forest Society gave a brief presentation concerning a parcel of land on Black Mountain (one of the Kearsarge Mtn foothills) that the Forest Society is trying to acquire. The 1025 acre piece is located mostly in Sutton with a little bit in Warner. They are trying to raise \$1.2 million by the end of this year. They have already raised \$600,000 in grants. Brian is traveling around to various groups to promote awareness of this campaign and asked that we help spread the word. For more information you can visit their website <http://www.spnhf.org/thingstodo/default.asp#event375>.

Secretary's Report – The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Woody made a motion to approve the minutes; Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy reported that there is \$2084.29 in the main checking account; \$755.92 in the retailer account; \$262.45 in the Beautification Fund; and \$2372.68 in the brochure account. Mike made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; Woody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Colby Business After Hours – Cindy reported that there were about 36 people in attendance at their Business After Hours on September 1. They were a little disappointed in the low turnout but those who were in attendance had a great time! Lake Sunapee Bank was the winner of the one year free membership. **Action Item:** *We will line up 4 BAH locations and dates for 2011 and begin promoting them now. Laura will contact Lake Sunapee Bank regarding their free membership.*

Website – Mike got the ball rolling and now his workload has picked up so Kevin has agreed to run with the project for awhile. It appears that we are at the point where we need to develop the content. Our goal is to have the site up in time for the Festival. **Action Item:** *Laura will ask Kevin for an update and see if he needs help.*

Membership Brochure – **Action Item:** *Woody will talk with Maryann to get the status of this project and to see if she needs any help.*

Banner & Membership Stickers – **Action Item:** *Bob will talk with Kevin to get the status of these items.*

Board Insurance – **Action Item:** *Woody will talk with Maryann to get the status of this item.*

Festival of Trees – Laura reported that she and Cheryl met with Dan & Mary Watts and Ginger Marsh. The Chamber will be listed as a supporter rather than a sponsor. It was suggested that the FOT committee take over the checking account since this is no longer an official chamber activity. **Action Item:** *Laura will talk with Dan & Mary about this.*

Chamber Office Location – The conversation concerning the location of the chamber office continued. Those in attendance feel that we are looking for a place to showcase our members rather than a working office with a computer, desk, etc. We agreed that it does need to be located in a high traffic area. After much discussion the group decided that the best solution is to rotate the office among the businesses who are interested in hosting it. In an effort to get this

moving (especially with the Festival crowds coming to town), we are going to start with Colby. Country Houses has also expressed an interest in hosting the office, so they will be next. The number of businesses who want to host it will determine how long the office will be at each location. **Action Items:** *Cindy will work on collecting brochures from members. Laura will mention it to the retailers and send an e-mail to the members.*

Warner Fall Foliage Festival – We need to settle the details on the location of the Chamber table and banner at the Festival. **Action Item:** *Laura will talk with Rhonda.*

Other Business

The group talked about sending out the dues letters earlier this year with an incentive if they pay early (i.e. \$70 vs. paying later at \$80). This needs to be discussed further when more board members are present. We also talked about the need for different dues levels which we will explore in 2011.

We need to have a sign made up for the host chamber office window. **Action Item:** *Bob will talk with Kevin about this. We would like to have the banner, stickers and sign by 9/30 so we have them in time for the Festival.*

Mike is going to donate a banner to hang on the sign post at Brookside that shows the Chamber logo and web address along with some sort of wording such as “Support Your Local Chamber”. Thanks Mike!!

Laura will include something in her “From the President” column in the paper concerning the Festival of Trees and how we are available to support events in other towns.

A long discussion ensued about keeping things moving. Laura was feeling discouraged and Mike reminded her that summer is typically a slow time for getting things done. The group feels that if we can address all of the action items before another month goes by we will still be on track for achieving our goals for this first year of the Chamber. (Thanks for the pep talk guys!) ☺

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.