

Kearsarge Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting
Hopkinton Town Library
April 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Patrick Miller at 5:47 p.m.

Present were: President Miller, Cheryl Johnson, Vice President; Barbara Lassonde, Secretary; and guest Alan Jeffers of NY Life Insurance Co. of Manchester.

Barbara Lassonde gave the Secretary's report, stating that the Business After Hours at Barton Insurance Agency in Contoocook was well attended by approximately 25 business professionals who enjoyed the refreshments and networking.

She also stated that listings of the Chamber's upcoming events have been sent to the Messenger for the past two months & will continue monthly. A brief article inviting Webster businesses to join the Chamber was sent to the Webster town newsletter.

The contact person for the Warner Fall Foliage Festival for this year is Kristin Riley.

The Kearsarge Maple Festival was a big success, with hundreds of people converging on the town of Warner for a pancake breakfast at the church, sugar on snow at the Telephone Museum, a demonstration of how the native people made maple sugar at the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, and tours of the seven participating sugar houses in Warner and Webster. Early reports indicate good crowds drawn from all around southern NH & Mass, as well as from the Concord/Warner area.

President Miller initiated a discussion on publicizing the Chamber to gain better name recognition. One idea would be to recognize a business person or citizen of the year, and feature a member business once a month. Cheryl mentioned that Lee Anne Vance of Indigo Blues won the Hippo award for the best in one category.

Cyr Lumber will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony in May and has invited the Chamber to participate.

Cheryl gave the Treasurer's report, showing a total of \$8,674.77 in the combined accounts.

New members recently joining the Chamber, are: Treehouse Travel, Deb Lick of Warner; Randy's Appliance Repair of Bradford; Concord Monitor of Concord; and Jill Thompson Music Studio of Bradford.

A discussion was held regarding the Chamber possibly offering a scholarship and sponsoring non-profits with their events.

President Miller stated that he has been busy promoting the Chamber and trying to recruit new members.

The next Business After Hours event will be held April 16 from 5:30-7:30 at the Lumber Barn in Bradford, which is expected to draw a large crowd from surrounding towns.

Upcoming Business After Hours events will be: May 21 at the Barn Store of New England (tentatively), and June 16 at The Maples at Warner.

Cheryl suggested we offer our members a July boat trip on Lake Sunapee, and she will check into it.

A list of artisans as potential members was sent to Mary & Patrick, and that will be shared with the rest of the board via email.

Patrick suggested using Constant Contact once a week to keep in touch with our members. He also suggested we feature a member once a month as a “member spotlight”, and spotlight new members. This could be done through a monthly

e-newsletter, which would include current events, upcoming events, new members, and noteworthy happenings. Barbara will consider taking on this task.

Patrick mentioned that the Bradford Business Group has invited our Chamber to attend their Business After Hours on April 29 at Merrimack County Customs. He will send the board more details.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Barbara Lassonde,
Secretary