

Kearsarge Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
August 3, 2015
Sugar River Bank

The August meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by President Patrick Miller. Present were: President Miller, Barbara Lassonde, Secretary, Dan & Mary Watts, Directors, and members Kathy Sirois and Kay Steen. Absent was: Cheryl Johnson, President-elect and Mike Ayotte, Treasurer. After introductions, a brief overview of the Chamber's objective was explained to our guests.

Secretary's Report: The secretary reported that minutes of the last meeting had been approved and are posted on the website. She stated that the KACC e-newsletter had kicked off. It consists of one brief article each week on various topics sent to our members. Three issues have been sent with an open rate of over 50%. The only feedback Barbara has received is when someone wanted to post an upcoming event, which was done. President Miller recommended we send the newsletter to all potential and past members as well as current members.

Our ice cream social Business After Hours had about 15 people attending, and we thank Stefanie at The Velvet Moose for making space for us and serving us.

Several of our members attended the Concord Chamber Business After Hours at the Concord Monitor. We were invited as their guests and received a warm welcome. The printing room was impressive, the refreshments were excellent, and we made some good contacts. Barbara sent a note to the Concord Chamber thanking them for their hospitality.

Membership Report: Mary stated that we now have 79 members.

New Business: Dan requested quotes from various printers to produce 400 copies of our 24-page directory, which will list all members. Only one printer has responded, and that was Brayshaw. They estimated the job at \$434.00, and prepress charges are \$250-\$300. A motion was made, seconded and voted that we budget \$1,000 for the directory and have it ready before Fall Foliage Festival. Patrick suggested we talk it up, and try to get people to join the Chamber so they can be listed in the directory. Upcoming Business After Hours are: September at Warner Historical Society, October at Cyr Lumber. No one is scheduled for August.

A discussion was held on the Christmas Shopping Weekend and the Festival of Trees Preview Party. Mary stated that she didn't think she could do the set-up for the party this year, and Stefanie of Red Door Catering isn't going to be available to cater it. Alternatives were discussed.

Barbara updated the board on the schedule for the USS Kearsarge crew visit. The Chamber will provide a sandwich lunch on the mountain, and Barbara will coordinate with Cheryl on preparing the food.

Mary and Patrick said they may be able to help. The committee has received a grant to cover most of the cost of the food for the 3-4 days they will be visiting, and the Chamber will have to cover little of the cost of the lunch, if any.

Patrick announced that Eastern Propane is sponsoring the music and film festival series at the Jim Mitchell Park this summer. In exchange, Eastern will have booth space at Bookends during the Fall Foliage Festival, which he will be staffing. We can promote the Chamber at that booth, and some of the board members will help Patrick staff the booth.

The next board meeting will be held September 2 at 5:30 at the Hopkinton Town Library in Contoocook.

Dan will have the final list of names and art work for the directory by then, and Mary will send out an email notifying everyone that if they join the Chamber, they can be listed in the brochure.

Dan also stated that members may have an extended listing on our website at no cost, but not many have taken advantage of it.

Kay and Kathy encouraged us to maintain a discounted membership rate for artisans. The half-price rate will continue through this year, but future discounts will be determined by each operating board of directors.

Kay said she would like to see the Chamber offer educational sessions, especially on health and business insurance for small businesses, and Patrick stated that we hope to begin offering educational sessions this fall. The board has been so busy trying to revitalize the Chamber by building its membership, improving its image, and offering monthly Business After Hours, that we have been unable to offer educational sessions as well. In order to accomplish all that we would like to do, we will need to hire an employee sometime in the future, because the board members are already overloaded. Barbara mentioned that she presented a program on publicity last August.

Kay requested \$175.80 for a brochure for Main St. Warner, Inc. Holiday Shopping Gala. Patrick stated that a large number of brochures were discarded last year after the event and that it wasn't a wise investment for the Chamber. He will come up with other ideas we may be able to help them with and get back to her.

Other Business: Barbara stated that the current treasurer has attended only one meeting in the past eight months, has provided no financial reports and some of the bills haven't been paid. According to our bylaws, if a board member has more than three unexcused absences, he shall be removed from the board. Cheryl has offered to take the treasurer's position. A motion was made, seconded and voted that we replace the current treasurer and put Cheryl in that position. Barbara will notify Cheryl and Mike of this decision.

Dan will continue working on the member directory. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Barbara Lassonde
Secretary