



MAD RIVER VALLEY VERMONT

Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce Minutes of Annual Meeting September 15, 2015 Big Picture Theater & Café

Present: A quorum of members of the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Chair: David Dion

Meeting was called to order by the Meeting Chair at 5:35PM

Opening Remarks:

1. The Board Chair Peter Hans thanked everyone for attending, thanked the Big Picture Theater and Café for their hospitality and made a few opening remarks. He introduced the new Executive Director Lisa Davis and Director of Economic Development Rebecca Baruzzi.

Executive Director Report:

1. Executive Director Lisa Davis reviewed the past year. In particular:
 - a. Ski the Valley had again been successful in the winter season. It continues to create upside occupancy for Lodging and the Ski Areas mid-week.
 - b. BedandBrew Tours in the spring had been a great success and will be continued in the fall. The tours bring significant off-season business to lodging and Valley retailers and restaurants.
2. Membership overall had been stable through the year, with some members leaving however replaced by a larger number of new members.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The financial report was distributed at the meeting along with the proposed budget for the coming year.
2. The Treasurer Michele Eid provided an overview of the highlights. The proposed budget is in general alignment with the actuals from the past year.
3. There being no questions, a motion to approved the budget was proposed by Michele Eid, seconded by Peter MacLaren. Carried unanimously.

Director of Economic Development Report

1. Since May the Director has been working almost exclusively in partnership with the Mad River Planning District through the joint Vision & Vitality Steering Committee to organize and run the Economic Vitality workshops. These have been well attended and created excellent dialog.
2. The workshops will continue into the Fall, followed by a meeting in October to consolidate all the insights gathered, leading a 2nd Economic Summit for the Valley later in the year.

Transportation Advisory Committee:

1. A brief update was provided. While details for the coming year are still to be finalized, it is expected that the routes and schedules will remain largely unchanged.
2. The level of ridership on some routes is a concern for future viability and everyone is asked to encourage both residents and especially visitors to use the buses when possible.

Marketing Committee:

1. The website continues to be a major marketing tool for the Mad River Valley.
2. In response to the requests from the Economic Vitality Workshops, the MRV Calendar will be significantly enhanced in the coming months, as a tool to be used by everyone in the Valley.

Election of Directors:

1. The slate recommended by the Board had been distributed to all members on August 6th. Specifically:
 - a. Expired Term for Treasurer: (Michele Eid, Hall & Holden). Nomination: Michel Eid, Hall & Holden for a 3 year term to expire 8/31/18
 - b. Expired Term for Director: (Jim Westhelle, Sugarbush Resort). Nomination: Ted Fisher, Sugarbush Resort for a 3 year term to expire 8/31/18
 - c. Expired Term for Director: (Tom Mehuron, Mehuron's Market). Nomination: Tom Mehuron, Mehuron's Market, for a 3 year term to expire 8/31/18
2. There being no nominations from the floor, the above slate was proposed by Peter MacLaren, seconded by Lisa Loomis. Carried unanimously.

2015-16 MRVCC Work Plan

1. Executive Director reviewed the key focus items for the coming year:
 - a. Improved communications with members
 - b. Continued leverage of website and social media for marketing
 - c. Workshops to provide support on important issues and opportunities for members
 - d. Continued support of the Economic Vitality initiative

Amended Bylaws:

1. Peter MacLaren introduced the proposed update of the Bylaws, following an extensive review by the Board over the past year. A link to the proposed Bylaws had been sent by email to all members on August 17th.
2. The key changes address:
 - a. Using email as the primary means of communication, and reducing notice periods to 30 days.
 - b. Giving flexibility to have a Board sized from 7 to 11 members.
 - c. Setting up a more flexible approach for Board committees to allow all except the Executive Committee to be created and disbanded as required.
3. There being no questions, the updated Bylaws were proposed by Peter MacLaren, seconded by Roger Nishi. Carried unanimously.

Business "Best" Awards:

1. The members present divided into groups to propose award categories and to nominate their selection of a "Best" member in that category.
2. The winning members were congratulated by all present, and they were presented with a certificate from the Chamber.

Other Business:

1. None

Adjournment:

1. A motion to adjourn was proposed by David Dion, and seconded by Peter Hans. Carried unanimously.
2. The meeting adjourned at 7:00PM

Most members then stayed for an excellent dinner served by the Big Picture Theater and Café team.