



MAD RIVER VALLEY VERMONT

Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce Minutes of Special Board Meeting February 8, 2016

Present: Peter Hans (Chair), Lisa Loomis, Peter MacLaren, June Anderson, Jack Sharry, Amy Todisco, Lori Klein and Roger Nishi. (All by conference call)
Absent: Ted Fisher, Rosemarie White and Jim Tabor.

This special meeting was called by the Chair to discuss information received by the Board about a planned meeting of some Chamber members apparently to discuss concerns about and recommendations to the Chamber, and to see what immediate action might be appropriate if any.

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:35 p.m.

A quorum of 8 Directors present by conference call was declared by the Chair.

Background:

1. The Board had been made aware of an email from Steve Butcher, past Board member and through his company Vickery Hill a vendor to the Chamber, expressing concerns about some recent actions of the Chamber Board, and calling a meeting of invited individuals to a meeting on Wednesday 10th February.
2. While the initial impression we had was that this was an open meeting that Board members could attend, an email received from Lorien Wroten clarified that that the meeting was invitation only and private. She also expressed concern that information about the meeting had been passed to the Chamber Board.
3. The concerns expressed in Steve's email are seen by the Board as largely inaccurate and misleading, and a memo clarifying our perspective has been prepared and circulated to the Board for guidance.

Discussion:

1. After discussion the Board agreed that it is best to take a low-key approach. Specifically:
 - a. Specific Board members (list appended) will attempt to make contact by phone or in person with those we believe may be attending. The posture will be that we are excited about the progress being made in the Valley and by the Chamber as a result of the Economic Vitality process, and then in a primarily listening mode see what their concerns may be if any. If any of the topics in Steve's email are brought up, the talking points in the memo can be used gently to explain our perspective. Our overall message is that the Board always welcomes constructive feedback.
 - b. We will review feedback as part of our Board meeting on Friday.

Other Actions:

1. Given the apparent misunderstanding about the nature of Wednesday's meeting, Peter Hans as Chair will write separately to each of Lorien and Joanie apologizing for any confusion, and that we look forward to any feedback to the Chamber Board resulting from their discussions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Action Item Summary:

- Board members to make contacts as noted (see appended list)
- Peter Hans to send letters to Lorien & Joanie

Minutes submitted by Peter MacLaren, Secretary

Action list for contacts:

- Jim Halavonich – Peter M
- Lorien – Lori
- Peter Boynton - Lori
- Vicki – Lisa
- Tom Mehuron – Lisa
- Yvonne – June
- Kurt – Roger
- Joanie - Roger
- Michele – Rosemarie
- Mike Anastos – Peter H