



MAD RIVER VALLEY VERMONT

Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce Minutes of Board Meeting June 3, 2016

Present: Peter Hans (Chair), Peter MacLaren, Jack Sharry, Amy Todisco, Roger Nishi, Jim Tabor, Rosemarie White, Lisa Loomis, Ted Fisher, Lori Klein.

Absent: June Anderson

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:10 a.m.

A quorum of ten Directors present at the start of the meeting was declared by the Chair.

Minutes of May 13th meeting:

1. Moved by Peter M that minutes be accepted as circulated, seconded by Rosemarie. Carried.

Strategic Direction:

1. Agreed that our strategic direction needs to be re-evaluated. Feedback from members and the community indicate that the Chamber has continuing credibility issues, despite the considerable progress in recent months
2. The ongoing work of the CEDC is one key input. That committee will be reporting to the MRVPD on June 16th. Focus is:
 - a. Current and future needs of the Valley, budget needs to address these, and how to fund.
 - b. The Vermont Futures organization provided compelling input at a presentation attended by some members of the Board and others on April 28th. The messages focused on the challenges that need to be addressed across Vermont and its communities for a viable future.
 - c. Possible future roles for the Chamber include running a Destination Marketing Organization, as well as Business Support – items we are doing today but with currently a very limited budget.

Chair Succession Planning:

1. Chair Peter Hans completes his two terms on the Board at the end of August.
2. Discussion of next steps included whether to set up an interim planning group to direct the Chamber while the strategic direction is re-evaluated, or to move ahead and identify a new chair to recommend to members at the upcoming Annual Meeting.
3. The Board agreed that designating a new chair was the best course. To be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Resignation of the Executive Director:

1. The Board had been advised on May 27th that Rebecca Baruzzi planned to resign for personal reasons, effective July 1st.

Executive Session:

1. Moved by Lisa, seconded by Peter M that we move into Executive Session. Carried. Executive Session started at 10:50AM.
2. Moved by Lisa, seconded by Peter M that we leave Executive Session. Carried. Executive session terminated at 10:56AM.

Motion regarding interim management of the Chamber:

1. Moved by Lisa, seconded by Jim that “The Board set up a committee to appoint a manager for a period up to 6 months with candidates to be suggested by the Board.” Carried.
2. The following Board members volunteered for the committee: Lori, Amy, Jim. Committee asked to finalize its work within two weeks.
3. A job description for the manager, based on the essential elements of the current ED job description, will be prepared by the committee, with assistance from Peter H and Lisa.

Executive Session:

1. Moved by Peter M, seconded by Peter H that we move into Executive Session. Carried. Executive Session started at 11:04AM.
2. Moved by Peter M, seconded by Peter H that we leave Executive Session. Carried. Executive session terminated at 11:16AM.

Communications:

1. Jim will draft a press release for the Valley Reporter addressing Rebecca’s resignation.
2. Jim will also provide talking points for the Board to use.
3. Peter H will reply to Rebecca’s letter, accepting her resignation with reluctance.

Concern re email sent out by Chamber regarding School Board merger:

1. The Board was made aware during the meeting that an email had been sent out from the Chamber email address distributing an article advocating a specific position on the School Board merger.
2. The Board agreed it is not, and should not be, our policy to appear to be taking a position on a political issue like this.
3. Agreed that Lisa would work with Rebecca to send out a retraction and apology on an immediate basis.

Adjournment:

1. Moved by Jim, seconded by Lisa. Carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:47AM.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Friday June 17th at 10AM. *(Note the revised schedule.)*

Minutes submitted by Peter MacLaren, Secretary

Action Item Summary (including those carried over from last meeting):**Prior and not yet reported on:**

1. *Member meeting feedback: Rebecca prioritizing actions*
2. *Ongoing Food Festivals: Amy will author a My View*
3. *July mixer: Amy to see if Hartshorn Farm would be the venue.*
4. *Marketing Outreach: Jack, Jim and Rebecca to include calls on MRG and Skinner Barn*
5. *Add info on Asset Groups to website: Peter M to investigate*
6. *Member Brainstorming Socials: Rebecca will coordinate next steps, Amy will assist*
7. *ED to pursue 2017 Lacrosse tournament*
8. *Peter M and Jim T to propose plan for BedandBrew ongoing*

New:

1. *Candidates for new chair to be discussed at next meeting*
2. *Committee to appoint manager to report by June 17th. Lori, Amy, Jim.*
3. *Job description for new manager to be completed ASAP*
4. *Press Release for VR and talking points re ED resignation to be prepared by Jim*
5. *Peter H to reply to Rebecca*
6. *Lisa to work with Rebecca on retraction re school board email*