



MAD RIVER VALLEY VERMONT

Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce Minutes of Board Meeting June 17, 2016

Present: Peter Hans (Chair), Peter MacLaren, Jack Sharry (by phone), Amy Todisco, Roger Nishi, Rosemarie White, Lisa Loomis, Lori Klein. Also ED Rebecca Baruzzi for her report only.
Absent: June Anderson, Jim Tabor, Ted Fisher

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:07 a.m.

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

Minutes of June 3rd meeting:

1. Moved by Lori that minutes be accepted as circulated (with some small typos corrected), seconded by Amy. Carried.

Financial Report:

1. Follow up needed of long outstanding dues from some members. **Rosemarie will circulate list** to Board. **Board members** with good connections to those members are asked to volunteer to call them, and let Rosemarie know.
2. Having the promised talking points (action from prior meeting) would be helpful for these conversations. **Action Jim please!**

ED Report:

1. Rebecca provided a written report and addressed highlights.
2. Annual Meeting needs to be organized in the near future.
3. Transition of website is proceeding. Status review planned for next Wednesday 22nd by phone. **Peter M asked to participate.** Role of Darlene as paid consultant is now complete.
4. Admin hand-over: Robin has been shown how to access all paper and online files.
5. Recommendation that for clarity the Board appoint a single point of interface to Robin. **Rosemarie agreed to handle this.**
6. Bed and Brew is being address by Peter M and Mike and seems to be under control. There may be a payment issue that Meg is concerned about and **Peter M will follow up.**
7. Rebecca left the meeting at this point.

CEDC Update:

1. The presentation made to the MRVPD Steering Committee on June 16th appears to have been well received, and led to a good discussion, including among members of the public present.
2. The Executive Committee of the MRVPD will be reviewing and proposing how to take next steps.
3. A concern expressed is that some members of the Select Boards have not been following the work on Economic Vitality and the CEDC despite reports in the Valley Reporter and via minutes of the MRVPD etc. So additional work will be needed to bring them up to speed as the recommendations are rolled out.
4. From the Q&A it was again apparent that there are some negative views about the Chamber in the community, although it seems that many of those comments are related to past history and that our current work has apparently not been communicated well enough.
5. Some members of the Chamber Board expressed concern at the apparent lack of respect from some members of the MRVPD Steering Committee given comments made by them at the meeting.

6. As agreed following the Economic Summit, the key roles of the Chamber ongoing are currently Destination Marketing and Business Support, including the Community Calendar, and we need to address the immediate strategic planning for the short term and the restrictions imposed by our limited budget while the overall planning for the bigger picture involving the Chamber and the MRVPD for the longer term is discussed and reviewed ongoing.

Executive Session:

1. Moved by Lisa, seconded by Roger, that we move into Executive Session. Carried. Executive Session started at 11:02AM.
2. Moved by Lori, seconded by Lisa, that we leave Executive Session. Carried. Executive session terminated at 11:21AM.

Nomination for incoming Chair of the Chamber:

1. Moved by Rosemarie, seconded by Lori that Peter MacLaren be nominated as the incoming Chair of the Board.
2. Peter M thanked the Board for the nomination, however declined to accept it at this point until further discussion takes place about the strategic direction of the Chamber.
3. Item deferred for discussion at next meeting.

Communications to members:

1. We need to update all members on the work of the Chamber this year to date and the current planning for the immediate future.
2. **Amy volunteered** to draft an email with assistance from Peter M.
3. *(Note that it was subsequently decided post-meeting to focus the immediate communication to provide an update to members on the CEDC presentation to the MRVPD, and Jack will draft this email. Amy will focus on the next letter to members.)*

Managing Visitor Center:

1. With the increasing number of summer visitors we need volunteers to assist with being at the desk.
Rosemarie to discuss ideas with Robin.

WebCam at Warren Store:

1. This WebCam, which provides a video feed to our website that is surprisingly popular, is owned by Steve Butcher. He has turned off the feed as he would like to remove it, or have it purchased from him. The Warren Store has advised that they are willing to contribute 50%. Moved Lori, seconded Peter M that the Chamber contribute \$450 to match \$450 from the Warren Store to purchase the WebCam. Carried. **Roger to follow up to see if we can get the feed restored** in the short term. **Peter M and Lori will discuss details with Jack** at the Warren Store.

Action Item updates:

1. The Status of all open actions from prior meetings was reviewed and updated as below.

Agenda items for next meeting:

1. Review Board terms to rationalize orderly transitions in future. **Peter M will circulate a recommendation.**
2. Review strategic direction of the Chamber.
3. Discuss nomination for incoming Board Chair

Adjournment:

1. Moved by Roger, seconded by Amy. Carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:48AM.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Friday July 8th at 11AM.

Minutes submitted by Peter MacLaren, Secretary

Action Item Summary (including those carried over from prior meetings):

Prior:

1. *Member meeting feedback: Rebecca prioritizing actions.* Report completed. Closed.
2. *Ongoing Food Festivals: Amy will author a My View.* To be deferred to address the Blueberry and future Festivals. **Open item**
3. *July mixer: Amy to see if Hartshorn Farm would be the venue.* Agreed. Closed
4. *Marketing Outreach: Jack, Jim and Rebecca to include calls on MRG and Skinner Barn.* **Jack will send an update to the Board. Open item.**
5. *Add info on Asset Groups to website: Peter M to investigate.* Not possible until website transition is completed. **Open Item**
6. *Member Brainstorming Socials: Rebecca will coordinate next steps, Amy will assist.* An action item for the Interim Manager to prime. **Open Item**
7. *ED to pursue 2017 Lacrosse tournament.* Rosemarie will follow up on status and potential actions. **Open item**
8. *Peter M and Jim T to propose plan for BedandBrew ongoing.* Peter M has sorted out plans with Mike Jengo. Closed.

Last meeting:

1. *Candidates for new chair to be discussed at next meeting.* Discussed and minuted at this meeting. **Open item.**
2. *Committee to appoint manager to report by June 17th. Lori, Amy, Jim.* Work is in progress. **Open item**
3. *Job description for new manager to be completed ASAP.* Done. Closed.
4. *Press Release for VR and talking points re ED resignation to be prepared by Jim.* Press Release done. Talking Points still needed as minuted at this meeting. **Open Item**
5. *Peter H to reply to Rebecca.* Done. Closed
6. *Lisa to work with Rebecca on retraction re school board email.* Done. Closed

Current meeting:

1. Circulate list of long outstanding dues to Board. Board members with good connections to those members are asked to volunteer to call them, and let Rosemarie know. **Action: Rosemarie and all Board members.**
2. Talking points regarding progress and immediate plans relative to Rebecca's resignation. **Action: Jim**
3. Website Transition Status review planned for next Wednesday 22nd by phone. **Action: Peter M**
4. Single point of interface to Robin. **Action: Rosemarie**
5. Bed and Brew payment issue with Meg. **Action: Peter M**
6. Volunteers for visitor center to assist with being at the desk. **Action: Rosemarie**
7. WebCam feed restoration. **Action: Roger**
8. WebCam transition management: **Action: Lori & Peter M**
9. Board terms to rationalize orderly transitions in future. **Action: Peter M**