



Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 25th, 2020

In attendance:

Board Members: Ana Dan, Peter MacLaren, Suze Edwards, Lori Klein, June Anderson, Mimi Bутtenheim, Kevin Begin, Jack Sharry, Jim Tabor, Diane Forester.

Chamber Staff: Eric Friedman

Held using Zoom video conferencing.

Meeting Opened at 9:35 AM

Minutes

- Approval of the minutes of the August 11th and August 19thth Board meetings were moved by Jim, seconded by Suze and carried.

Directors' Report

- Preparing for opportunity to testify to House Commerce Committee and possibly the Senate Commerce Committee this week, in conjunction with VACCE. He will be addressing the need for more grants for tourism businesses and needed support for Chambers of Commerce.
- Making progress on marketing grants opportunity working with Stowe and Waterbury. Useful collaboration benefits as well.
- Some new members are joining as a result of recognizing the value that the Chamber is providing.
- As a result of preparatory work done last year, Yankee Magazine will feature the MRV in the October issue.
- The Chamber Visitor's Center has been re-opened with outside access only and is attracting a fair number of visitors. Currently two volunteers are assisting.
- Website improvements continue. An intern is helping. Social Media outreach continues.
- Weekly Lodging Zoom meetings continue to provide value and the Restaurant MRVEats program is gradually getting rolled out, led by Kim and Lorien.
- Continuing to counsel businesses on SBA, EIDL and PPP process.
- Noted that Kim Donahue is on Governor's Wedding Industry Task Force and is an excellent resource.
- Eric noted that he will be taking next week as a vacation week.

Finances

- Cash situation remains positive.
- 65% of member investment renewals are due September 1st and these invoices just went out.

- Receivables for past invoices are relatively small. Some will have to be written off and members terminated. Every effort is being made to clean up by year end.

Annual Meeting

- All arrangements are now in place for the virtual meeting on Wednesday September 9th.
- Still looking for feedback from restaurants and alcohol purveyors to participate in specials for virtual social hour and dinner.
- Nomination slate has been updated, with Roger Nishi now nominated to join the board as Secretary. Thanks to Kris for stepping down to make way for Roger's return.

New Business

- Noting that a number of people are moving into the Valley, various "welcome approaches are worth considering. E.g. a "Welcome to the Valley" package distributed in collaboration with the Relators. June volunteered to lead and Jim offered to assist.
- Director Liability Insurance. After short discussion agreed that we should continue with this \$800 per year policy.

Motion to adjourn moved by Peter, seconded by Suze.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Date of next meeting TBD. It may not be necessary to meet again before the Annual Meeting.

Minutes taken by Peter MacLaren