

FRYEBURG BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Declaration of Quorum

President Donna Woodward called the meeting to order at 6:03. With 11 voting members present, (and subsequently 12), a quorum was declared for all purposes.

2. Secretary's Report

On motion of Prudy Westerberg second of Christine Greene and unanimous vote, the Minutes of November 12, 2013, were approved as presented.

3. Treasurer's Report

On Motion of Wanda Richard-Cox, second of Mia Purcell and unanimous vote, the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

4. Membership Report

Holly Foster reported that at the close of calendar year 2013, we had 112 members, only 62 of whom have renewed at this point. We obtained three new members in January of this year. The Executive Board will meet with Holly next week to assist her in wrapping up the 2013 membership. Mike Corthell will serve as Membership Chair for 2014.

5. Economic Development Committee Report

President Donna Woodward informed the members of the meeting held January 9, 2014, with the Fryeburg Select board. It was an open conversation regarding economic development and covered such broad categories as TIFs, parking issues, updated zoning map, better marketing and utilization of the airport, town infrastructure, and overall broadening of the tax base. The meeting was moderated by Glen Holmes from Western Maine Economic Development. The next meeting will be held February 20, 2014, at the Fryeburg Town Offices beginning at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Donna, Town Manager Sharon Jackson, and Glen Holmes also met with Brian Doyle from DECD (Maine Department of Economic and Community Development).

Donna also informed the members that on January 28, 2014, at 8 a.m. at the Windham Weaponry, the Windham Economic Development Committee will be holding a meeting on the intersection between economic development and education. A continental breakfast will be served, again, all are invited to attend.

In the vein of economic development, Wanda Richard-Cox reminded the group that the Planning Board next meets on the evening January 28, 2014, and also that an office of SCORE exists in Bridgton and is also a valuable resource for economic planning and development for businesses.

Jennifer Regan brought to the group's attention that there is the potential for obtaining planning and development grants from the State of Maine. She will work in concert with Donna Woodward to pursue this.

6. Communications

- a. Mount Washington Valley Chamber. No report.
- b. Greater Bridgton. President Donna Woodward reported that the director of the Bridgton Chamber has tendered her resignation. Also Bonnie Gould has been elected to the Board of Directors for Bridgton Chamber and will be our liaison to the same going forward.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

- a. **Business – Student Program/Mentoring.** Donna Woodward explained to the group that in our brief history we have taken on at least one major project every year (e.g. the *Then and Now* book, 20 2012 and the 250th Birthday party last year). This year's major project is obviously working in concert with the Town of Fryeburg regarding an economic development plan. The second proposed major project is a business-student mentoring program. Members of the Executive Board will be meeting with Headmistress Mayo at Fryeburg Academy within the next couple of weeks to discuss opportunities for businesses in Town to work with the school and students in terms of educating both as to the opportunities in Town. The obvious end goals are in fact to educate the students about various careers here and elsewhere, but ideally with an eye toward keeping them

in this community or having them return to this community after their higher education.

- b. **Jen's Friends.** Donna let the members know that Jen's Friends is looking for a new board member to represent the Greater Fryeburg Area. Anybody interested, please contact Wendy James at Badger Realty – (603) 356-5757.
- c. **Honorary membership for not-for-profit civic organizations.** Discussion was had as to whether not-for-profit civic organizations such as the Rotary Club, Kiwanis, etc., should be given honorary membership in FBA. After a brief discussion, the decision was made by all that this would not be pursued.
- d. **Affordable Care Act Presentation.** A presentation regarding the Affordable Care Act is currently scheduled for February 11, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Given that that is the same night that FBA meets, the decision was made that the February 11, 2014, FBA general meeting would be held at 5 p.m. at the American Legion Hall so that all those who are interested may simply stay for the 6:30 p.m. Affordable Care Act presentation.
- e. Mia Purcell reminded the group that Western Maine Economic Development Council administers a business loan under community concepts. Attached is a brochure regarding the same as well as a brochure regarding *Welcome ME*, which is a free customer service training program for Maine businesses and organizations. Mia informed the group that on February 26, 2014, there will be a presentation regarding the effective use of LinkedIn for businesses. The presentation will be held at the Bethel Inn.
- f. **Public Announcement Board.** There is some thought that the board in front of the Fryeburg Fire Station may be a public announcement board. Jennifer Regan will follow up on this, and if indeed it is, she will take care of posting our announcements there.
- g. **Website.** Donna, Holly, and Mike Corthell updated the members on recent efforts to find a qualified web designer and host, as there has been much discussion and angst over the past several months regarding our website,

which is woefully out of date, inadequate, and incredibly hard to manage and maintain.

Donna reported that after interviewing several web designers, the group was most impressed with *A2Z Designs* out of Oakland, Maine. The group was particularly impressed by the fact that the designer has worked extensively with multiple chambers of commerce in designing their website. As such they have an intimate understanding of what chamber of commerce-type entities, such as ours, need in a website.

A great deal of discussion was had amongst the membership about the selection process, timeframes, and whether we had looked at anybody closer than Oakland. Donna informed the group that we had looked closer to home but were most impressed with the gentleman from Oakland.

Roy Andrews provided information at the meeting regarding a web designer out of Lovell by the name of Jason Candelora. Donna will be reaching out to Jason to discuss our web needs with him, as all are in agreement that if there is somebody in the local area who meets our needs, it is preferable to go with that person.

Bonnie Gould will reach out to some of the chambers to see whether they are in fact happy with *A2Z's* services.

After discussion on Motion of Wanda Richard-Cox, second of Jennifer Regan, and a unanimous vote, the Executive Board has been authorized to expend up to but not exceeding \$3,000 on implementation of a new website. .

- h. **Election of New Officers.** Bonnie Gould presented the slate of proposed officers for calendar year 2014 as follows:

President – Donna Woodward
Vice President – Wanda Richard-Cox
Secretary – Donna Pearce
Treasurer – Bonnie Gould
Member-at-Large – David Chaffee

Nominations were solicited from the floor. None were forthcoming. Jennifer Regan moved the slate as presented, Prudy Westerberg

seconded the same, and on unanimous vote of all present, the slate was voted.

9. **The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m** on motion of Jennifer Regan, second of Wanda Richard-Cox, and unanimous vote of all present.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bonnie S. Gould

Bonnie S. Gould, Secretary