

RVBA  
Marbletown Business Association  
Minutes of Meeting 5/18/06

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Northern Spy. There were 23 people in attendance. Thank you to Northern Spy for hosting us, and congratulations to Eric Stewart whose work is being shown at the Spy.

Laurel welcomed three new members Up and At Em Landscaping, James and Karin Reynolds (Architects) and Sarah and Michael Killick of Blue Dragon Capital Management (an asset management company dealing in commodity and interest rate futures).

Board of Directors Update:

The new Board of Directors, consisting of 12 members, held their first meeting May 11th. The Board will meet monthly, as will each of the committees.

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee: Mike Taylor/Chair, Patty Fahee/Vice Chair. Mike reported that the committee held their first meeting, which was an organizational meeting. They focused on communicating with the Board, proposed a mission statement for their committee, and outreach. They are ready to work and will accept projects from other committees.

Membership Committee: Ben Shor/Chair, Jon Bernstein/Vice Chair. Ben reported that the committee held its first meeting and set its primary goal as increasing membership satisfaction and increasing membership attendance and benefits. This will lead to increased membership enrollment. Some options discussed were: membership directory, membership discount program, ID cards, a survey of past/current members, and a slogan or shop locally campaign .

Community Service/Events Committee: Chris Drouin/Chair. Chris reported that the committee will be developing a mission statement and a meeting calendar. Any volunteers are welcome. Members can also commit on a per project (short term) basis.

Finance Committee: Fred Wilke/Chair. Dan Gagnon reported for the Committee. The Committee is discussing ground rules for the budgeting process, recognizing two streams of expenses special events and typical administrative expenses. They are looking for input from the board and other committees. Info for budgets is needed from the board and each committee for the 06/07 (11/1 10/31) operating budget by August. Budget submissions should include rough estimates of money needed and money to be generated, as well as external funding. Issues/items should be prioritized.

Nominating Committee: Tom Edwards/Chair. Laurel reported for Tom that there will be a meeting in the coming month to work on a sleight of officers to be presented in June.

New Business/Around the Room:

Anyone can still volunteer for a committee. Committees please think of the 2007 budget when making plans.

Steve McDonald/Stone Ridge Library announced the formation of the Stone Ridge Library Foundation, existing for support of the library and fundraising (mainly for the building fund). All monies raised by the Foundation are separate from any public monies.

Ben Shor announced the formation of the Marbletown Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission has 9 members and has one permanent opening as well as an alternate opening. Anyone interested in volunteering, talk to Ben.

Bill Eggers announced that the Girl Scouts will be having a fundraising car wash event at Ulster Savings Bank in Stone Ridge Saturday and Sunday. 18 Girl Scouts from Ulster County will be attending an event in Maine the oldest schooner in America multi media event.

Laurel (for Carl) relayed that the Community Development Committee will repeat a town-wide survey. Volunteers are needed to work phones and go door to door to gather information.

Susan Diamond, of Lederman Children's Center, and Chair of the Garden Tour this year, spoke about the Garden Tour. Co-sponsors this year are Lederman Children's Center, High Meadow School and MBA. The event will be held 6/24 from 10-4:00 and tickets will go on sale the day of the event at Davenport starting at 9:30. Volunteers are needed a sign up sheet was passed around.

Laurel announced that the Rondout Valley Growers Assn. Wine Dinner will be 6/10 at Stone Ridge Orchard.

Howard Mont suggested to the membership that they consider donating gift certificates when requests are made for door prizes/auction items. Not only do they promote your business, but they have about a 50% collection rate.

Introductions were made around the room.

Next monthly meeting is 6/15, location to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Susan S. Benz, Secretary