

Thursday May 6, 2010

Minutes taken by: Cindy Sweeney

Minutes

Meeting of the Rondout Valley Business Association Board of Directors Thursday May 6, 2010, 7:30am at Friends & Family II.

In attendance: Richard Travers, Carl Pezzino, Pam Kimmerling-Hoveling, Tim Sweeney, Ev Mann, Denise McCarrol, Laurel Sweeney, Dan Gagnon, Sue Benz, Cindy Sweeney

Not present: Eric Stewart, Dan Johnson, Ben Shor, Steve Kelley

Meeting convened at 7:30

Motion made by Carl to adopt the minutes of April 2010 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim and unanimously approved.

- 1. May 13 membership meeting:** Richard gave a brief overview of the upcoming membership meeting which will feature Rosario Agostaro giving a presentation of the RVCSD 2010-2011 school budget. Richard explained to the Board his intention to prepare a list of topics he feels are relevant to how the school budget relates to area businesses. Ev suggested the possible need for a moderator during the presentation. Richard said he would act as moderator. Richard also reiterated the fact that this meeting will be open to members only and he will be checking entrants to assure this rule is adhered to.
- 2. June 10th mixer:** Brief discussion was held regarding the June 10th mixer which is scheduled to be held at Gaby's Restaurant in Ellenville. Richard stated that he would like to get a meeting reminder out soon in an effort to increase attendance. Laurel suggested sending a "save the date" email out to the membership that outlines upcoming RVBA events so members can plan their schedules accordingly. All present agreed this is a good idea.
- 3. Welcome newest Board members:** In attendance at the meeting was Sue Benz who is one of the two newest Board members. She was warmly welcomed by all present. Richard explained that Steve Kelley, who is also a new Board member, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict that was in place before he accepted the Board position. Discussion was had later in the meeting regarding the two remaining open positions. Carl suggested women should fill the positions in order to maintain a balanced

Board. Everyone present agreed filling one of the positions with a lawyer would be of great benefit to the RVBA.

4. **Website update:** Pam explained that progress is being made. The website finally has the look she has been requesting in addition to most of the content. The remaining project at this point is the 'administrative console'. Pam made clear to the Board her intention to continue to follow and encourage Cornerstones progress toward completion. It is her belief that the website should be finished before the next Board meeting.
5. **Rail Trail initiative:** Richard explained to the Board his most recent activities relating to the initiative. He has met with all the involved townships (Ellenville, Wawarsing, Marbletown, Rosendale and Rochester), and presented them with an "inter-municipal resolution". All the townships involved have agreed to the resolution and to work together for the expedient completion of the trail. Richard then went on to explain that the next step will involve the formation of an executive committee which will include a representative from each of the townships in addition to several other members of the involved communities. Richard will act as committee chair. He has set a tentative date of May 27th for the first committee meeting. Laurel suggested that it would be good to invite local media to the event and publicize it as a "kick-off" event. Discussion followed regarding various logistical aspects of the project. Richard stated during this time that he would like more Board involvement. Laurel, Tim and Dan G. agreed to meet with Richard to further discuss the details of the initiative.
6. **Visions of the Valley update:** Richard has been working with the RV High School art and tech department to have signs made for the RVBA. They are currently working on 20 "Buy Local" signs, 4 signs calling for photographs for the Visions photo contest and 4 signs which will be used to advertise the Visions auction. The Board was very pleased and thankful to Richard for his work at getting this task completed. Following a brief discussion was held during which it was suggested by Tim that the RVBA produce, for sale, postcards or note cards using the 2010 photo winners. Everyone present agreed this was a good idea. Laurel agreed to do some sourcing for a production company and report back to the Board.
7. **RVBA/RVGA Events:** Richard, Tim and Pam met again with RVGA members. Plans for the Barn Dance, scheduled for June 19th, are moving forward. Richard informed the Board that the plan at this point is to access the mutual benefit following the Barn Dance event in order to decide if other co-sponsored events are viable. Richard also informed the Board of the need for the RVBA to reach out to area businesses to solicit items for the silent auction that will be held during the Barn Dance. It was decided that Cindy should create an email to be sent to the membership requesting silent auction items.

8. **RVBA BBQ:** A committee was formed to handle to the details of the RVBA BBQ which is currently scheduled to be held in August at Williams Lake. The committee members are: Ev, Sue. A request will be made to the membership for other committee members.
9. **Garden Tour update:** Eric was not present to give an update to the Board, however, he did state by way of email that he is currently looking for more gardens. Ev suggested that the gardens at MAMA could be a possibility and Cindy said she would ask the owner of Veronica's Gardens if she had any suggestions.
10. **Property Tax reform task force presentation:** Carole Krauss and Judith Gustafson of NY State Property Tax Reform Coalition presented an overview of their organization and its' efforts to change the basis of how property tax is assessed. Basic concept is based on income instead of real property. They presented facts relating to the population of the RVSD: 2000 @ 3,009; 2010 @ 2,240; 2020 @ 1,600. They also provides average cost information for education in the USA, NYS & RVSD @ \$12,000, \$19,000 & \$27,000 respectively. They also asked us to publicly stand against the RVSD Budget for 2010, and to assist them in getting their message in front of the Legislature in Albany. In response to their request on the 2010 RVSD Budget we declined, stating that it was far to late in the process (May 6th) for us to take a stand on this May 18th vote. That we did not feel we had ample facts at our disposal allowing us to take a stand, either for or against. That we would take under consideration the thought of an initiative dealing with the 2011 RVSD Budget. As for the request on the Legislature/Albany we also decline stating that we believe we would be most effective on a grass root basis, again with the thought of an initiative regarding a review of the components of the RSVD budget. We suggested that they consider joining the RVBA, as a platform to reach out to local business and invited them to attend our May 13th Breakfast Meeting with Rosario Agostaro, Superintendent of RVSD as the guest speaker.

Action items:

- Cindy create and send "Save the Date" email to the membership
- Cindy send press list to Board
- Laurel find source for note card production
- Cindy create and send a call for silent auction donations for Barn Dance
- Find other BBQ committee members within the membership

The meeting adjourned at 9:45am.

Submitted by Cindy Sweeney April 4, 2010