

*Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce*

*Board of Directors Meeting*

*The Heritage House - Schoharie*

*March 23, 2016*

Present: Jamie Casterlin, Eric Efthimiou, Scott Ferguson, Sarah Goodrich, Chris Guldner, Milan Jackson, Debbie Mickel, Mario Roefaro, Bobbi Ryan, Georgia Van Dyke, Andrew Noble

Excused: Pat Coffey, Eric Dahlberg, Bobbi Ryan

Absent:

Thanks to Sarah Goodrich for hosting the SCCoC BOD Meeting.

Proposed New Members –

Lisa & Jason Minellos – High View Spring Farm, Stitched Creations

Motion was made by Jamie Casterlin and seconded by Georgia VanDyke. Mario abstained. All others were in favor.

The budget this year is looking pretty good. Expenses are tracking with the expected expenditures. One half of the line-of-credit has been paid off. Once we have reached a comfortable level of cash, the remainder of the Line will be paid.

It appears that the Cobleskill Eagles Club may be interested in taking over Cobleskill's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.

Executive Director Report – Race Printing has been selected as the Workforce Solutions Awardee. Ed Sherlock has created a Schoharie County Ad. The song cost him \$350 to create. The song should be sent to Tourism for their consideration. However, Tourism is already working on a song for rebranding. Song was played at the meeting. Song was intended as a gift for the annual dinner. We will look at reciprocal membership for the Chamber Chat spots. Chamber Chat is planned to be once a week with a 5 to 8 minutes spots. We would like to consider a longer slot that may occupy an half an hour slot. Chamber will offer him 2 Annual Dinner tickets as part of his reciprocal membership. Jamie Casterlin made a motion and was seconded by Chris Guldner to offer him two tickets to the Annual Dinner as part of a reciprocal membership.

Family Farm Day there are currently 30 farms in Schoharie County and 22 farms in Otsego County that plan on participating in the event. This year's booklet is 8 ½ x 11 and will contain maps to get participants to the farms. SCCoC is still shown on the cover as an event sponsor.

SCCoC Marquee Event is still on hold. The event is in need of a leader (champion) to head up the event.

Still looking for a Director to host the December BOD meeting. The December BOD meeting has been rescheduled to 12/21/2016.

Shannon Almy with Fennimore Asset Management has been proposed as a new director. She has been with FAM for seven years and is their Client Relationship Manager.

SUNY Cobleskill would like to have a director for the Chamber. It was suggested that all prospective Directors should attend one BOD meeting prior to being voted on for membership as a Director.

The copyright mediation has been set for March 30 at 9 am in Albany. The County Attorney claims the County is not aware of anything. The attorneys have left the Chamber out of the communication loop regarding the case. It is felt we may be responsible for the photo on the website, although the County has control of the website content. The kiosks have 2 photos and were built by Kurt. It is Kurt's opinion that the photos were paid for at the time of constructing the structure. There are several kiosks throughout the county. The kiosks are out of date and the information needs to be updated. It is believed that the kiosks are owned by the Towns.

Chamber committee reports are still needed for the annual dinner. These reports are needed in support of tax filings.

Member invoicing has been completed. So far 82 members have renewed online. There is lots of dialog about the new membership structure. There has been good feedback on the wild apricot software package the chamber is now utilizing.

It has been requested that all committee meetings be placed on the Chamber calendar.

#### Committee Reports:

Agriculture – none – Family Farm Day was previously discussed.

Business & Educations – Eight people have registered for the small business training seminar. The county is promoting the series and starts on April 5<sup>th</sup>. 39 registrants for the career fair and 4 more are expected to register. It is being held on March 30 at 9 am at BOCES. 4 schools plan on attending the event. SUNY Cobleskill is also promoting the event.

Business Generators Group – Working on a membership campaign to target empty seats of the group.

Business Advancement Committee – They are in the information gathering process and are planning a meeting with Steve Wilson and Ron Filmore.

Events Committee – The committee is meeting weekly to plan the annual dinner. A dinner agenda will be developed and distributed to the Directors. NYPA will print out the programs for the dinner.

Membership Committee – Meeting to be scheduled.

Tourism Committee – Nick C. has been hired as the Tourism Coordinator. He has presented to the County Board of Supervisors. I Love NY wants tourism to have all tourism dollars in an account prior to receiving state money. Tourism will ask the County to receive larger earlier payments.

Benefit Specialist – Letters went out to all member describing new benefits through the Chamber.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:30 am by Milan Jackson.

Respectfully submitted by,

Milan Jackson

Treasurer