

Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors, Organizational Meeting
January 27, 2016

07:22 Call to Order
Attendance

Board Responsibilities

Scott called the meeting to order, and reminded Board members that final committee reports from 2015 are due at the end of the month. A review of Board Member Responsibility reminded that all must participate in a committee, and that all board members must maintain unanimity of voice. A vote was cast to confirm officer seating: see attached.

Chamber Structure

A discussion regarding Chamber committees then took place; and involved the addition of an Economic Advancement committee. The 2016 structure would be as follows: Membership committee, Agricultural Committee, Economic Advancement, Business & Education Committee, Events Committee, and Tourism. A motion to accept this committee structure was made by Pat Coffey and seconded by Sarah Goodrich.

2016 Budget Discussion

Scott prepared the 2016 budget with a 'conservative' perspective, using an estimated membership dues amount which was benchmarked at the expected renewal level. The Chamber's annual events such as the Annual Dinner, Summer BBQ, EXPO, etc. were provided an estimated expense budget, though additional sponsorship opportunities to members may offer possible revenues. A motion to pass the budget as proposed was made by Sarah Goodrich, and seconded by Milan Jackson.

D&O Insurance

It was discussed that so long as the Board of Directors continues to act in the best interest of the chamber, there will be no concerns or necessity for D&O Insurance. This is decidedly because no one Director has control over the organization's financials, and previous searches have proven that no other Chambers of Commerce in NYS have had to use their D&O Insurance. This statistic was thoroughly researched by Chamber's legal counsel John Lavelle. Eric E. proposed that the Chamber inquire with the NYS Association of Not for Profits in order to see what other insurance options may be available. Eric will then follow up at a later meeting with details.

Membership Renewals

Kris reported that he has analyzed the Chamber's membership body comparing each member's total contributions for the years of 2014 and 2015. Then with the help of Scott, each member's total contribution amount was 'benchmarked' with its respective level in the new membership platform to be launched January 1, 2016.

Marquee Event

The Board unanimously agreed that if a Half-Marathon or any new 'Marquee Event' were to be organized, it would be in the best interest to plan it for 2017. In addition, it was requested for Board Members to consider a 'primary sponsor' for such an event.

Georgia Van Dyke's Role

As the Executive Director, and 2nd Vice President Georgia will be responsible for Chamber related functions that are externally focused.

Potential New Board Member

Jamie will contact Fenimore Asset Management to determine if they may choose to hold a seat on the Chamber Board.

Chamber Awards Dinner

The Awards Dinner will take place at Caverns Palace on April 1st. The Events committee proposed a total of six award recipients. After brief discussion a motion was made by Milan and seconded by Pat to pass the nominated award recipients.

Benefits Specialists of New York

In an effort to improve the Chamber's ability to provide insurance benefits to its members the Board has agreed to work with Benefits Specialists of New York. A motion was made to approve the utilization of such health insurance and benefits by Pat Coffey and seconded by Jamie.

A motion was made by Jamie to accept the Chamber's Organizational Plan for 2016 (see attached), and seconded by Georgia.

A motion was made to modify the Organizational Chart (see attached) with the current changes and modify as needed at a later date was made by Sarah and seconded by Eric E.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat and seconded by Georgia.

Meeting Adjourned 10:37