

Minutes
17 September 2009
Lyme Old Lyme Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut
Cherrystones Restaurant

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Bob Chapman.

Old Lyme First Selectman Tim Griswold led the Pledge of Allegiance

Bob recognized Linda Bruckner of Alpha-Aero Custom Draperies in East Lyme, who was attending for the first time.

Because this was the first meeting of the new year, there was no Secretary's Report.

Treasurer Ruth Roach stated that a corrected final copy report (a draft was submitted to members with the meeting notice) will be e-mailed to members.

Vice President John Stratton reported that the Board of Directors had met multiple times over the course of the summer to make sure the officer/board transition would run smoothly. He cited the "excellent leadership of the past 4 years," noting that much Chamber work occurs behind the scenes.

Correspondence received:

- Thank you letter from Catherine Logan, one of our Rutherford Sheffield scholarship awardees
- letters from patrons of local businesses which have been forwarded to the businesses

Upcoming events:

- Pat McCarthy reminded members of the Boat Ride, scheduled for Sunday, October 4, 3:30 to 5pm. Tickets are \$15. Board member Betsy Dill put together a "Fall picnic" gift basket that will be awarded at the Boat Ride. Pat had \$1 tickets available for purchase at the meeting
- Pam Stevens asked members to register in advance for Reynolds 150th Anniversary Celebration, a business after hours event on Wednesday, October 28, 5:30 to 7pm. Our Chamber is co-sponsoring the event with the Old Say brook Chamber. Admission is \$5 for pre-registered members, \$8 for members at the door, and \$10 for non-members. A sign-up sheet was circulated & will be circulated at the October meeting as well.

Cathy Frank reported that the Chamber and District 18 PTOs are co-sponsoring a Meet the Candidates event for Board of Education candidates on Thursday, October 22, 7pm at the Lyme Old Lyme Middle School. Chamber members Olwen Logan is moderator. Chamber members Laurie Walker & Pam Stevens have agreed to be timekeepers. Questions for the candidates are to be submitted in advance.

Ruth Roach asked for volunteers to assist with the 2nd Annual Halloween Pet Parade.

Tim Griswold passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to assist with Adopt a Highway on Saturday, Oct. 17. Volunteers should meet at the Town Hall at 9am.

Heather Leonard from the Eastern Connecticut Chamber spoke of upcoming Chamber events, including a breakfast event with a local Broadway producer, and a Business After Hours at Backus Hospital. Heather stated that the Backus BAH would draw around 150 people & would be a good networking opportunity.

A member objected to the increase in dinner cost that was approved by the Board of Directors in August, because it had not been voted by the membership. Ruth Roach stated that since this was neither a bylaw change nor a funding request, a vote by members was not required. A motion was made by Cathy Frank & seconded by Ruth Roach to approve the Board recommendation. A discussion ensued. The motion passed 15 to 5.

Cathy Frank called attention to the volunteer checklists on the tables & asked every one to sign up to help with at least one event.

A change to the bylaws was approved by the Board of Directors in August. As required by the bylaws, Bob Chapman announced the recommended change: **Add the immediate past president of the Chamber to a one year, advisory, ex officio, position.** A vote on this change will take place at the October meeting. If approved, Charlie Delinks will move to the new advisory position and the Board will name a replacement for Charlie's current position, which expires in June 2010.

Bob Chapman thanked Cindi Taylor & Heather Leonard for planning tonight's program. Meeting was adjourned for dinner.

(Break for dinner: choice of prime rib or salmon)

John Stratton introduced speaker **Jeff Anderson**, Executive Director of the **Florence Griswold Museum**. Jeff spoke about the museum's exhibitions during 2009: The Year of the American Landscape, including Patrick Dougherty's *The Rambles*, an outdoor sculpture erected with the help of 100 volunteers from 5 tons of river birch harvested from the Kus stumping grounds. Forty paintings on loan from the Portland Art Museum are on display through January. Recently opened at the Museum is the John & Dyanne Rafal Landscape Center. He also announced a special fall event (October 10 through November 1): *Wee Faerie Village*, featuring many special activities and free admission for children.

Flo Gris welcomed 57,000 visitors to Old Lyme this past year. Jeff acknowledged a number of Chamber members, including Deke Cooksley, who was part of the panel that interviewed Jeff in 1966, and Sheila Wertheimer, who manages the Museum gardens.

Bob recognized Charlie Delinks, who attended the funeral of Dominick Dunne over the summer. One of Dominick's sons told Charlie how much his father had enjoyed speaking at the January 2009 Chamber meeting, which turned out to be one of his last public appearances.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane Cable. Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Cathy Frank

Secretary, Lyme Old Lyme Chamber