

Meeting Minutes 15 October 2009  
Lyme Old Lyme Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut

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

Old Lyme First Selectman Tim Griswold led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob recognized a number of guests and members attending for the first time, including Gary Yuknat & his daughter, Samantha; Todd Hartt of Edward Jones Investments; Judy & Jim McQuade; Sandy Dowley & Jenny Timcke of the Woman's Exchange.

Bob thanked Pat McCarthy for organizing the well attended Boat Ride & Betsy Dill for coordinating a gift basket for the event.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting was made by Betsy Dill, seconded by Sheila Wertheimer, and approved unanimously by members. The Treasurer's Report was e-mailed to members with the October meeting notice, and will be submitted for audit.

John Stratton reported that the Board of Directors continue to meet regularly. Members should feel free to contact any officer or director with questions or comments about anything related to Chamber business.

Correspondence received: none

Upcoming events:

Pam Stevens reminded members about the **Reynolds 150th Anniversary Celebration** on Wednesday, October 28, 5 to 7pm. Members who pre-register will pay \$5 (\$8 without pre-registration). This is a Business After Hours event co-sponsored with the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.

**Meet the Candidates** takes place on Thursday, October 22, 7pm at the LOL Middle School auditorium. Index cards were distributed for any members wishing to submit questions for Regional District 18 school board candidates.

Bob recognized two candidates in attendance: Russ Gomes, for the Board of Education, and Steve Ross, for the Old Lyme Planning Commission.

Ruth Roach asked for donations of pet prizes and trick or treat candy for the Chamber's 2nd Annual **Pet Parade**, scheduled to take place on October 31.

Tony Sheridan, President of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce was recognized & reminded members about upcoming Eastern CT Chamber events. Eastern offices will be moving shortly from Gales Ferry to Waterford.

#### Old Business

A change to our bylaws was approved by the Board of Directors in August & announced to members in September. A motion to amend the Chamber Bylaws to add the immediate past president of the Chamber to a one year, ex officio, position was made by Pam Stevens, seconded by Betsy Dill & approved unanimously by members.

Charlie Delinks will move to the new advisory position. Bob announced that Peter Mountzoures will join the Board to complete Charlie's current term, which expires in June 2010.

Bob recognized Steve Ross, who summarized results of the survey sent to members over the summer. There was a 20% response from predominantly active members. The majority listed business (rather than social) as the main reason for joining the Chamber & attending meetings; do not attend meetings based on speakers/programs; believe our scholarship & community donation program is just right; and would prefer meeting programs featuring business leaders.

Steve said that Question 20, which asked for member feedback on the Lyme/Old Lyme & Eastern CT Chamber merger, received a mixed response, with 50% positive & 50% negative or no opinion.

Charlie Delinks will post a link to the complete survey results on the Lyme Old Lyme Chamber website.

#### New Business

The Board of Directors voted to support the Town of Old Lyme's Holiday basket Program as the Chamber has done in the past.

A motion to donation \$100 to the LYSB for the Town's Holiday Basket program was made by Cathy Frank, seconded by Pam Stevens & approved unanimously.

A motion to donate \$100 to the Old Lyme Social Services Department for the Town's Holiday Basket program was made by Kurt Zemba, seconded by Pam Stevens & approved unanimously.

Bob introduced a new meeting feature: Chamber Spotlight, an opportunity for brief "infomercials" from members about their businesses. Members are invited to sign up in advance for Spotlight slots.

**Chamber Spotlight:** Linda Bruckner of Alpha Aero Draperies provided an overview of her Niantic business. She has custom window treatment contracts with a number of large commercial accounts, including Yale & local banks. She also does residential treatments.

**Chamber Spotlight:** Kurt Zemba of RMB Insurance offered to assist and advise Chamber members with their individual and small business health, life, & disability insurance needs.

**Chamber Spotlight:** Sandy Dowley & Jenny Timcke, co-presidents of the Woman's Exchange of Old Lyme, invited members to visit their non-profit shop, featuring hand crafted items, in the Old Lyme Marketplace. 30% of the proceeds are returned to the local community in the form of donations.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Tim Griswold reminded members that Adopt a Highway was scheduled for 9am Saturday.

He introduced speaker Glenn Sulmasy, Chamber member & author of The National Security Court System: A Natural Evolution of Justice in An Age of Terror.

Glenn asked members to acknowledge Lyme Old Lyme High School junior Samantha Yuknat, who hopes to attend the Coast Guard Academy.

In his book, published by Oxford University Press, Glenn notes that we need to strike a balance between protecting our citizens and supporting human rights. He proposes a hybrid court system for dealing with terrorism suspects. Stating that 21st century warfare is different from wars of the past, he suggests that the hybrid model - using elements from both the civilian & military court systems - represents the natural maturation of justice in the 21st century.

Glenn's book can be purchased locally at Essex Books, 2 Essex Square, open Wednesday through Friday at 1pm, Saturdays from 10:30am, and Sundays from 12:30pm.

Representatives from Essex Books sold copies of the books at the meeting & Glenn stayed to autograph the purchases.

Laurie Walker announced that Chamber member Jim Noyes had received the Chairman's Award from the Old Lyme Historical Society for his "demonstrated dedication to Old Lyme: its past, its present, and its future." Congratulations, Jim!

Motion to adjourn at 9:35pm was made by Kurt Zemba & seconded by Betsy Dill.  
Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by

Catherine Frank

10/18/09