

Meeting Minutes 19 November 2009
Lyme Old Lyme Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut

Bob Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and recognized Tim Griswold to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob expressed thanks from the Chamber:

- to Pam Stevens for coordinating the Reynolds 150th Anniversary Celebration co-sponsored with the Old Saybrook Chamber
- to Cathy Frank, Olwen Logan, Pam Stevens & Laurie Walker for their work on the Meet the Candidates night, which was co sponsored with the school PTOs
- to Jeff Montanaro & the Cherrystones staff for the delicious meals & great service

There were no new or prospective members present. John Stratton introduced David & Judy Winer from the OLPGN Library Board (David) and Friends of the Library (Judy).

A motion to approve the Minutes from October meeting was made by Norm Emerson and seconded by Ruth Roach.

Deke Cooksley informed members that Toys for Tots collection boxes are in place & asked members to bring a new, unwrapped game or toy to the December meeting. He introduced two guests from the Marine Corps League.

Pam Uthoff asked members to keep the Heifer Project in mind during the "giving season." The Project provides livestock & planting materials to communities in developing countries for very nominal donations. Information about the Project is available on www.heifer.org.

The 11th Annual Tree Lighting & Carol Sing takes place Friday, December 4 from 5 to 6pm at the Old Lyme Marketplace. A flyer is attached. First Selectman Tim Griswold & State Rep. Marilyn Giuliano will be officially invited to the tree lighting ceremony.

Ruth Roach had previously e-mailed the October 31 Treasurer's Report and there were no questions.

Heather Giffen Leonard spoke about the Eastern Connecticut Chamber's current membership drive, and introduced Ron Haubert, membership sales coordinator. She also invited L/OL members to attend Eastern's annual Holiday Gala. Information is available at www.chamberect.com.

John Stratton reported that the Chamber has been invited to become the lead sponsor of the March 2010 Bookworm Ball – the annual fundraising event for the OLPGN Library. Although members can vote in January to allocate some Chamber funds toward the sponsorship, the balance of the financial support will have to come from individual members. Both Judy & David Winer spoke about the important role of the Library in our community, of the Library's desire to assist local businesses, and of the benefits (considerable publicity, a strong presence at the Bookworm Ball & more) of Ball sponsorship to members.

- Chamber Spotlight: Sheila Wertheimer spoke about her extensive education and background in landscape design & introduced an idea for "Old Lyme in Bloom."
- Chamber Spotlight: Edward Jones representative Todd Hart introduced himself and said he hopes to open an Old Lyme office in the near future.

BREAK FOR DINNER (scrod or sirloin)

Bob thanked Cindi Taylor & Heather Leonard for planning tonight's program, and introduced Attorney Michael Blanchard of Suisman Shapiro. Attorney Blanchard's diversified criminal cases have included murder, assault, computer crimes, manslaughter and drunk driving defense. He has assisted those accused of crimes and their families throughout his legal career. Attorney Blanchard recounted some of his experiences and answered questions from members.

George Young was recognized. He wanted to clarify that individual members will need to contribute if the Chamber is to be the lead Sponsor of the Bookworm Ball. Members will receive a special e-mail/ mailing from the Chamber explaining how they can participate in this special opportunity.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ruth Roach. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Cathy Frank

11/24/09