

Lyme Old Lyme Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut
Old Lyme Inn Minutes 21 January 2010

President Bob Chapman called the meeting to order at 7pm & asked Tony Sheridan, President of ECT Chamber to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob asked us to join in a moment of silence to honor earthquake victims in Haiti. Bob thanked Candy Green & the Old Lyme Inn staff for welcoming us for our January meeting.

John Stratton announced that we have accepted Ruth Roach's resignation as our Treasurer with regret & thank her for her service to the Chamber. He asked that anyone who would like to volunteer or suggest a volunteer to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the term (through June 2011) contact Pam Uthoff or Cathy Frank from the Nominating Committee, or any officer or board member.

Steve Ross was recognized & provided an update on the CMRK Clothing Bin program – presently the greatest source of income for our Chamber. There are 4 bin locations in Old Lyme & Lyme: 1) behind The Bowerbird, 2) at Shoreline Mowers on Route 156/ Shore Rd, 3) at the CVTS building at 151 Boston Post Rd, next to Oriental Cafe, and 4) behind the Lyme Fire Station. In addition to providing clothing for those in need, support results in revenue for our Chamber. The program has now expanded into Niantic and Stonington with proceeds benefiting non-profit causes throughout Southeastern Connecticut.

Tony Sheridan of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber reported that \$90,000 for children's programs had been raised at the ECT Holiday Gala. He urged agencies in Lyme & Old Lyme that provide children's programs to apply for ECT grants. ECT has recently produced a tourism video which will be shown at the February meeting. Ed Dombrowskas, Executive Director of the Eastern Regional Tourism District, will be the speaker.

Although we did not have enough time to coordinate a Chamber sponsorship of the OLPGN Bookworm Ball, John Stratton asked if members would like the Chamber to make a donation to the event. Members indicated that they would. (A motion was made during the business portion of the meeting).

John reminded members to complete & return the survey about a possible Lyme Old Lyme Membership Directory which was attached to the recent meeting e-mail. The survey is not a fill-able form – members have to print a copy & fill it out.

John reported that a High School student is in the process of making our scholarship application "student friendly." Scholarship deadline will be end-February. We are also hoping that a Lyme Academy College student will be designing a new logo for Taste of the Lymes (April 18 at Lyme Art Association).

John recognized Cathy Frank to conduct Chamber business matters.

A motion was made by Betsy Dill, seconded by Pat McCarthy to approve the minutes from both the November & December 2009 meetings. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Peter Mountzoures, seconded by Steve Ross, to approve the Board recommended donation of \$200 to the Lymes' Senior Center's Creative Writing Workshop. Motion passed.

Cathy recognized Russ Gomes to introduce Kevin Leaver, Lyme Old Lyme High alum & Central CT. State University student who will be attending an International Business Communicators Conference in Hong Kong in the spring. Kevin requested financial support for conference costs.

A motion was made by Peter Mountzoures, seconded by Jeff Flower, to approve the Board recommended donation of \$500 to Kevin Leaver. The Board's recommendation included a condition that Kevin return to the Chamber to advise how the Lyme Old Lyme business community can benefit from global enterprise. Motion passed. Kathy Murphy suggested possibly expanding the scholarship program to include post graduate awards such as this one. The topic will be added to the next Board agenda.

A motion was made by Jane Cable, seconded by Russ Gomes, for the Chamber to make the same donation as last year to the Bookworm Ball. (note: amount is \$200). Motion passed.

Steve Ross provided information about the upcoming Lyme Art Association Frolic. Bob Jones provided information about the upcoming Lyme Old Lyme Lions Superbowl Sunday Pancake breakfast. Heather Leonard invited all to attend the Open House at the new Chamber of ECT offices in Waterford.

Bob Chapman thanked Cindi Taylor for planning the program and introduced guest speaker Robert Jones. In addition to the Chamber, Bob is active in the Lyme Old Lyme Lions Club, and the American Legion. He has recently published Secure the Blessings of Liberty: Understanding the Constitution. Bob Jones asked how many members had read the Constitution recently (small showing of hands), and led a lively discussion of rights and privileges, anarchy and tyranny, health care & education funding, campaign financing, and other related topics. He stayed to sell & sign books (\$15) after the meeting. Books are available through Bob and through the website www.knowourconstitution.com.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Mountzoures. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted by Cathy Frank, 23 January 2010