

Lyme Old Lyme Council Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 8am

Attending: Bob Chapman, John Stratton, Ruth Roach, Peter Mountzoures, Pam Uthoff, George Young, Emily Griswold, Cindi Taylor, Cathy Frank, Steve Ross, Heather Leonard
Absent: Charlie Delinks, Betsy Dill

Chairman Bob Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:10am.

Correspondence

- Request for Destination brochures from Griswold Inn

Steve Ross has some extra brochures at his home; additional extras are available at the OLPGN Library or through Essex Printing. Steve will follow up on Griswold Inn request.

Approval of Minutes

- September 30 (Cathy) - *previously distributed*

A motion to approve the minutes of September 30 was made by Ruth & seconded by Pam. No corrections. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Ruth distributed a copy of the October 2009 Treasurer's report, previously e-mailed to board.

- Decal order

A decal order was placed by Sheri without advising Ruth.

Cathy asked that communication between Eastern Ct staff & L/OL board members be improved. Heather will bring up at Eastern CT staff meeting.

Ruth will schedule a meeting with Sheri to prepare the annual budget.

Steve asked why member database was not being updated. Cathy reported that Charlie Delinks has not yet given instructions to new board/officers but it will be addressed.

A motion to table further discussion was made by Cathy, seconded by Pam & unanimously approved.

Heather distributed a membership spreadsheet. Steve said that a column showing members who were originally both Eastern & Lyme/Old Lyme members was needed. When he was Treasurer, he used to phone "un-renewed" members.

Eastern CT

- **Board meetings** (John/Bob)

John attended a 10/28 Ea. meeting of Town Council chairs. Going forward the Town chairs will have a single representative on the Board of Trustees. the Chair was Norwich was elected as representative. Heather will forward contact information.

- **Banner**

A revised design was not provided by Sheri for the meeting.

- **Membership Fee Structure**

Steve indicated that the Eastern CT board had recently approved a new membership category for social memberships (which will be less costly than business memberships).

Old Business

tabled from previous meeting(s):

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- **Scholarship Committee Recommendation:** purchase artwork from graduating scholarship recipient & donate to community -- still tabled
- **Conservation Commission** Calendar sponsors

This is a calendar with hiking trails & conservation tips published annually by the Conservation Commission. Cathy discussed possible advertising/sponsorship opportunities for Chamber members. John will follow up with Ellie Czarnowski, Commission Chair.

2009-2010 Events

- **Pet Parade**

The event was postponed from Halloween for many reasons. Ruth has suggested Columbus Day as an alternative time & the ideas has been well received by members. Board suggested raffles (dog &/or cat baskets?) as possible fundraisers at the event.

- **Meet the Candidates** October 22

Cathy circulated a thank you received from the Democratic candidates

- **Business after Hours** (Reynolds 150th Anniversary Celebration) October 28

Many Old Lyme members seem to also be Old Saybrook members. Event was very well attended (on a dark & stormy night). Members suggested planning additional joint events with Old Saybrook Chamber.

- **Toys for Tots**

Deke Cooksley has delivered collection boxes to Town Hall, Essex Savings Bank, The Bowerbird, The Hideaway, Andy's Deli, Webster Bank. Cathy will submit info to Eastern for publicity/press release.

- **Tree Lighting & Carol Sing** December 4, 5pm

Board members will share responsibility for the event: Santa's Fire Truck- Cindi will contact Ellis Jewett; Candy Canes - Pam; Chairs for student musicians - Cathy will contact Pat McCarthy; lights for tree - Peter Mountzoures; hot chocolate - Cindi will order & pick up 1 prepared thermos from Coffee's & mix to make additional; Subway has offered 10 dozen cookies. Marketplace merchants have been invited to submit coupons to Pam for distribution to attendees. Board members will touch base with Pam Uthoff to make sure plans are set.

- **Taste of the Lymes** Sunday, April 18 at Lyme Art Association (Heather)

Heather confirmed that Ken Turcotte (Divine Wine Emporium) will handle selections & will offer tasting tips at the event. Cathy suggested asking Lyme College students to design poster for the Taste.

- **An Eastern CT Business After Hours** is scheduled at the Flo Gris - Heather will provide dates & details;
- **High Hopes** has contacted Eastern about doing a presentation to members &/or BAH event;
- **Holiday Gala** is scheduled for December 3. Heather will bring flyers to member meeting

New Business

- **Historic District benches**

The Historic District Commission contacted Bob & expressed concern about the bench(es) on Halls Road. The HDC asked if the Chamber might consider donating a bench for the Lyme Street green (at Church Corner). A motion was made by Cathy, seconded by Ruth to table the request, present it to Neil Gottfried & ask him to follow up. All agreed. Bob will advise the

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HDC. John asked if the Scenic Overlook at the Baldwin Bridge was a possible Chamber bench site. Cathy will speak with First Selectman Tim Griswold.

- **Speakers/Dinner Programs**

Toys for Tots & the High School Select Singers will be the focus of the December meeting.

- **Member Spotlight at November meeting:**

Sheila Wertheimer, Todd Hart will share the spotlight on Nov. 19

- **Sound System**

George presented some logistical issues related to both the storage of the system and transportation of it to monthly meetings. The system is presently stored at Charlie Delinks' home. Potential storage solutions were offered. Issue was tabled until George can discuss with Charlie.

- **Requests for Support & Donations: OLPGN Library Bookworm Ball**

John was approached by the Friends of the Library. \$2,000 is the donation required from the chief sponsor of the Bookworm's Ball. The board supported the notion of the Chamber's support of the Library fundraiser. Steve indicated that we may be under budget for current donations and could make a partial donation. John will present & ask for member participation for the balance of the donation at the Nov. 19 meeting.

- **Requests for Support & Donations: Heifer Project**

Pam will present the opportunity to members on Nov. 19.

- **L/OL Member Directory**

Olwen Logan, editor of LymeLine.com has expressed interest in publishing a L/OL Member Directory. She would like to survey members on the type of directory(format, cost, etc.) that will be of interest. John asked that he be consulted about copy & photos for the directory. The board asked that a board member/members proofread a directory before final printing.

Heather said that Eastern is promoting a 6 month trial membership & requested referrals from L/OL Board.

- **Local Author Event**

This is something that Betsy & Cathy discussed briefly because of the large number of local authors. No definite plans - just something for members to think about.

- **Merger discussion**

Cathy asked if a meeting program could be dedicated to a member discussion of the Eastern/Lyme-Old Lyme relationship and merger. After discussion, it was decided to survey members: would they prefer a regular dinner meeting for the discussion (perhaps in January?) or a special early morning meeting.

Next board meeting Wednesday, January 13, 8am

A motion was made by Ruth and seconded by George at 9:50am to adjourn.

Cathy Frank
11/18/2009