

Lyme Old Lyme Council Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 8am

Present: Bob Chapman, John Stratton, Betsy Dill, Charlie Delinks, George Young, Emily Griswold, Ruth Roach, Pam Uthoff, Cathy Frank

Absent: Peter Mountzoures, Cindi Taylor

President Bob Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:15am.

Correspondence

- returned letters (bad addresses)

Cathy will provide bad address info to Charlie Delinks and to Eastern CT Chamber.

- Clothing Bins (Steve Ross email)

Board members said they would like to be updated regularly with more info from Steve on how the boxes work, which locations seem best, income received, etc.

Steve Ross indicated his willingness to continue coordinating the program at the transition meeting (Summer 2009) & he was asked to continue with the program at that time. He sent an e-mail to Cathy indicating that he was willing to give an update on the program to members at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- November 18 (Cathy) – *previously distributed*

Steve Ross contacted Cathy requesting that the minutes pertaining to the order of L/OL Chamber decals be corrected with additional information. It was decided to add Steve's add'l info as a post-script to the minutes as follows: "Sheri ordered the decals after being contacted by Steve, as Liaison to ECT, and Steve left a message for Ruth that they were ordered from Gull Associates, from whom we have purchased them on the past."

Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Ruth Roach stated that she is resigning as Secretary due to a family matter. A motion was made by George, seconded by Cathy to accept Ruth's resignation. A motion was made by Cathy, seconded by George, to seek a volunteer to fulfill all or part of the remainder of Ruth's two year term. Motion passed.

Old Business

tabled from previous meeting(s):

- **Historic District benches**

Neil Gottfried was unable to attend the meeting. Bob Chapman updated the Board on the request from the Town's Historic District Commission to move the Chamber donated bench from the corner of Lyme Street and Halls Road. Board members objected to purchasing a replacement bench for the corner or elsewhere in the Historic District. A motion was made by George, seconded by Betsy, for the Chamber to re-locate the corner bench next to the other Chamber bench by the Old Lyme Shopping Center when weather permits. Motion passed.

- **Merger Meeting**

The Board agreed that a member discussion of the merger between the L/OL Chamber and Eastern CT Chamber will take place at the March dinner meeting, with a vote on continuing the merger to take place at the May dinner meeting. Both meetings take place at the Old Lyme Inn. The March discussion will be the meeting program and will be facilitated by President Bob Chapman.

- **OLPGN Library Bookworm Ball**

John Stratton will write a letter to members requesting financial support of the Chamber's Ball sponsorship (\$2,000). Ten tickets are provided to the Chamber with the sponsorship. Charlie said that he had received an invitation for his business to be a Ball sponsor. It was suggested that John seek Chamber members interested in \$200 sponsorships in exchange for 2 of the tickets instead of requesting smaller donations from all members.

Because the Ball is in early March, it is a good opportunity to publicize the Taste of the Lymes – some kind of promotional material is needed (flyer, bookmark, ???). John was asked to draft the Ball communication asap.

Scholarship Committee Recommendation

John has been in contact with representatives at both the High School and the College & the 2010 process will be underway soon. A HS student from Leslie Traver's class is currently editing the application package. Betsy suggested that John bring the Chamber scholarship to the new principal's attention.

Directory

Charlie will be e-mailing a short survey prepared by Olwen Logan about the proposed L-OL Directory. John would like to work with Olwen on the Directory. Cathy will forward the survey to John. John reported that the EDC (Economic Development Commission) is working on a home business directory.

Conservation Commission

The Commission did not publish a calendar for 2010 but Cathy said that residents have been asking for one. This may be a joint project to consider for 2011.

Eastern CT

Board meetings

There have been no new ECT meetings since the last one attended by John & reported on at the November L/OL Board meeting.

Banner

Cathy received an email from Heather Leonard indicating that Sheri Cote would be sending the final banner design & cost estimate, but nothing had been received prior to the Board meeting.

2009-2010 Events

Taste of the Lymes Sunday, April 18 at Lyme Art Association

Emily Griswold & Cheryl Sorenson will co-chair. Emily will contact Pam Stevens (who chaired in 2009 & previous years), and Ken Turcotte, who will be coordinating wine & beer selections in 2010.

New Business

Speakers/Dinner Programs

Chamber member Bob Jones will speak about his new book on Understanding the Constitution at the January meeting

Member Spotlight at January meeting

Neil Gottfried of Marc Jewelers will offer some Valentine tips. Emily or Susan Ballek will talk about the Lyme Art Association's upcoming "Frolic," a masquerade ball/fundraiser that will benefit the LAA's restoration fund.

Requests for funding:

Lymes Senior Center Creative Writing Workshop

A motion was made by John, seconded by George, to donate \$200 to the Lymes Senior Center Creative Writing Workshop program. Motion passed.

A motion was made by George, seconded by Pam, to contribute \$500 to LOL HS alum Kevin Leaver for his participation in The International Conference of Business Communicators in Hong Kong in April 2010, with the stipulation that he report back to the Chamber and advise us on how the Lyme Old Lyme business community can position ourselves to take advantage of global commerce.

Other: Local Author Event

Betsy will schedule a sub-committee meeting with Pam, John & Cathy to brainstorm ideas for an author event. The Board suggested a pre December holiday date (to allow for gift purchases) and also suggested possibly partnering with the OLPGN Library or the new LOL HS Principal to organize & sponsor the new event.

Spelling Bee

Cathy shared information on an adult spelling bee sponsored by a NH bookstore with entry fees donated to a "heating fund" for local people in need.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10th at 8am.

John Stratton will coordinate breakfast food (possibly from Andy's). Pam will assist in preparing a menu. John will order & pick up the food for the board meeting. Cathy will provide the coffee. Ruth will advise if any additional supplies (cups, plates, etc.) are needed.

Following a motion from George, the meeting adjourned at 8:15am.

Cathy Frank
15 January 2010