

Minutes
Lyme Old Lyme Chamber Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 24 5pm

Attending: Bob Chapman, John Stratton, Tim Griswold, Cathy Frank, Sheila Wertheimer; Linda Brophy

Absent: Cindi Taylor, George Young, Tammi Flynn, Emily Griswold, Peter Mountzoures, Charlie Delinks

President Bob Chapman convened the meeting at 5:12pm.

Co-treasurer Tim Griswold indicated that a Treasurers Report would be prepared upon Pam Stevens' return from traveling.

Correspondence

Cathy circulated a thank you note for campership funds from BS Troop 26 and reviewed results of Chamber survey to date. 14% of the Chamber membership has responded. Board suggested sending a reminder notice.

Highlights: 68% expressed interest in Business After Hours events; 50% were interested in business roundtables at breakfast meetings; 41% would like to see health insurance consultations offered with Chamber membership. The majority of the respondents said they had attended "some" meetings this past year.

Member suggestions include forming a speakers' committee, updating & adding sections to the Chamber website, developing relationships with OS & EL businesses, and increasing publicity efforts to "re-launch" the LOL Chamber.

Old Business

Member directory is at printer. John suggests sending a reminder to members to watch for the full color guide.

- *Committee Report: Scholarships*

John updated the Board on applicants. We received an application from one LOLHS junior (Grace Guo) and have been advised that one current college student (Van Franklin) will be continuing at the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts. We are not aware of any incoming freshmen from LOL and do not know yet of any LOLHS students enrolling in the College summer program.

The scholarship budget is \$4,000 with \$750 allocated as a scholarship for the Lyme Art Association. John will poll members of scholarship committee for thoughts on fund distribution to hs & college scholarship awardees.

Two proposals that have been made in previous years were mentioned:

- 1) design/create a permanent plaque for LOLHS listing Sheffield award winners. Perhaps a Lyme Academy College student would design a bas relief of Sheffield for the plaque.
- 2) Purchase an art piece from a student & donate from Chamber to a public building (eg Town Halls or Libraries)

Tim raised questions about scholarship funding. Should the budget each year be based on funds raised the previous year? Should funds budgeted for scholarship be deposited into account designated for scholarship only? These issues will be discussed further as part of a broader budget discussion.

Members agreed that the Board should consider developing an application & evaluation process for a grant program for new businesses.

- *Committee Report: Membership*

Sheila reported that George Young has not been available for a meeting. She is beginning Business After Hours event planning. High Hopes has expressed interest in hosting an event. Sheila is interested in hosting one in conjunction with Gina Garrefi (Oliver's Tails) & Olwen Logan (Lymeline.com). Linda Brophy hosted a BAH in Old Saybrook & volunteered to help with BAH plans.

New Business

Officers & Board Members 2011-2012

Cathy reported that Linda Brophy & Lynn Farrell have accepted the invitation to join the Chamber Board. Some officer positions are still in the process of being filled.

Business Expo

John relayed background of Chamber's attempt to organize an "expo" for 20 or so local home-based businesses with the LOLHS Business Department. We were not successful in the current year. The HS Business Dept. did invite Chamber members to its own open house in the fall but the Chamber was not a co-sponsor and was not involved at all in the planning process.

Glow Sticks

Board members were asked to think about events this summer that might be suitable for sales.

Spring/Summer Events

- Memorial Day - Cindi Taylor & Charlie Delinks are setting up Memorial Day Parade flag distribution. Sheila will assist. Cathy will send email for more volunteers.
- Midsummer Festival: no fireworks this year

Fall Events

- *Pet Parade Saturday, September 24* (Lynn Farrell)
- *Candidate Debates (October ??? possibly co-sponsor w/ regional PTO as we did 2 years ago)* (coordinator needed)
- *Literary Life in the Lymes Friday, November 18* (Cathy Frank & Mary Fiorelli)
- *Tree Lighting & Carol Sing Friday, December 2, 5 to 6 pm* (Cindi Taylor)

Reminders:

Annual Meeting Thursday, June 16 at Cherrystones

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Cathy Frank

5/25/11