

# JAMESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2014

President Rusty Sallee called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m..

**PRESENT:** Executive Director John McCauley, and Board Members, Kim Gregorzek,, Sonya Morton-Ranney, Marilyn Munger, Rusty Sallee, Cathleen Studley, Mark Swistak, Ben Thomas, and Kristine Trocki, and .

**ABSENT:** Jeff Bush, Maria Flood, Petra Laurie

The minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting previously sent via email were accepted.

**Treasurer's report** – \$3,247.09 in the Chamber Check account and \$12,659.75 in the General Account. The financial reports will be emailed as they were unavailable for the meeting, and we are in line with last year's numbers.

**Executive Director** – John McCauley reported that there were still a few non-renewals, and after discussion it was decided that “membership cancelled” notices will be sent at this time given that we are half way through the membership year. The Jamestown Press is preparing the Jamestown map in color, and John is getting ads, with the previous advertisers getting priority. John passed around the new RI Economic Development “CommerceRI” booklet, and announced that we have been invited to participate in the Secretary of State Business Expo, a CommerceRI program. The Chamber website has been updated, but the recent Minutes need to be added, as well as including “Night At” on the Calendar for August.

### **Old & New Business/Committee Reports:**

**Committees:** Rusty has emailed around 2014-2015 Board member Committee assignments, and committee membership will be offered to other Chamber members as spaces are needed.

### **Events:**

Recap- The Meet and Greet the New Town Administrator at The Narragansett, Thursday May 1, was a success.

May Business After Hours at Jamestown Outdoors May 22<sup>nd</sup> was well attended, and having the Jamestown Police there speaking and doing the breathalizers on the volunteers was a good addition.

Memorial Day Weekend May 24 – Community picnic at Fort Getty was a good event and the Memorial Day Parade with the Chamber truck was fun and good publicity. Next year the truck could have additional Chamber specific advertising, and it was a reminder that the Chamber banner should be used at other events.

Upcoming:

June 19 Business After Hours – A Ferry Wharf block party, 5:00 – 7:00.

July 17 – Summer cook out - Sponsors are being considered and the location is being confirmed.

September – Jamestown Ferry cruise

Fall – Seminar series coordinated by John and Jeff

**Following a discussion re the Chamber monetary contributions to the hosts of Business After Hours to defray costs of refreshments, and the pros and cons of charging Chamber members (and non members) to attend, 1) a motion was passed that \$200 will be donated for block parties, and \$100 will be donated for individuals to assist hosts with costs. And, 2) a motion was passed that there will be a donation basket at each Business After Hours event, with a suggested donation amount listed, encouraging all attendees to contribute to help offset the cost to the Chamber.**

**Night At... -**

Date is Sat. Aug. 16, 2014, theme is “Jamestown Hustle”. Marilyn is setting up a June meeting. We need ticket and poster design, and tickets will go on sale July 1.

**Government:**

Rusty attended the Town Council meeting re the plastic bag use matter, and advanced the Chamber position of a voluntary ban.

Discover Newport update – John and Rusty met with Evan Smith and talked about profiling RI communities, and how Jamestown rates re tourism, tolls, lodging, shopping public transportation. Evan Smith is a possibility to present a seminar in the fall seminar series.

Position on list of “100” homes – re buildings of value. Since no formal proposal has been made by Jamestown Town government officials, and there are still many unknowns, it was agreed the Chamber needs more information before it can consider whether it could take a formal position on the matter.

**Membership:**

New Members: None at this time, but several have been invited. Sonya will set up a Membership meeting to discuss strategies. At this point in the year new members will pay a pro-rated amount for 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

**Next Meeting** - Thursday, July 3, 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Morton-Ranney  
Secretary

