

ASHFORD BUSINESS OWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 283
Ashford, CT 06278

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:22 p.m. by President Bryan Becker

Attendee Introductions

Several new attendees joined us this month - introduced themselves and gave brief explanations of their businesses.

Hear from the Public and/or Invited Guests

None

-Secretary Metsack noted that EDC member Ron Anderson is working to connect with Roger Adams of the Windham Area Chamber of Commerce and we hope to have him present at a future meeting.

Old Business

Tabled until By-Laws are in place.

New Business

Tabled until By-Laws are in place.

Review of the draft By-Laws

President Becker read through the Mission Statement and then draft By-Laws created by the By-Laws Subcommittee and changes were discussed as follows:

Article I

"Members shall maintain a minimum attendance rate of 60% of all regular meetings held."
shall be removed

Article II

"President shall serve as ex-officio member of all subcommittees" **shall be added** under the Section 1: President's Responsibilities

Article III

Under Section 4: Voting

"A quorum shall consist of 25% of the voting members." **Shall be removed.**

"If more than 25 members are present, then 7 members shall constitute a quorum and if less than 25 members are present, 51% of those in attendance shall constitute a quorum." **Shall be added.**

A motion was made by Karl Sentivany and seconded by Nancy Discepolo to adopt the By-Laws with the changes noted. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Call for Nomination of Officers

Janice Sentivany was nominated for President, Bryan Becker was nominated for Vice-President. Both accepted the nominations. Secretary Metsack cast 1 vote for Janice Sentivany for President and 1 vote for Bryan Becker for Vice President.

No nominations were accepted for Corresponding/Recording Secretary. The filling of this position was table until next month's meeting.

Karl Sentivany motioned and Brian Becker seconded the nomination of Patrick Cosgrove for Treasurer. Patrick accepted in absentia. All in favor, the motion for Patrick Cosgrove for Association Treasurer passed unanimously.

Robert Layton also volunteered to serve as the Association's Webmaster.

Old Business

Kay Warren explained the mission of the Economic Development Commission, its goal in promoting the creation of a business owners association, and her role as the EDC liaison to the Association.

She further discussed several potential projects for the Association as suggested by the EDC including: publication of a business directory, business database, an association webpage linking to the EDC and town web pages, sponsoring a business fair, erecting business directory signs or boards on the lawn of Knowlton Memorial Hall and near Lake Chafee – noting that the Board of Selectmen has already expressed support for a directory board near Knowlton Memorial Hall. Design ideas were discussed and volunteers offered to assist in moving this project forward.

New Business

Correspondence – President Sentivany shared a letter from the Ashford Library looking to work with the Association on program showcasing businesses in town. Anyone looking to join the program can review the correspondence and obtain details from President Sentivany.

The need for a membership form for soliciting member information and association dues was discussed. A draft form will be reviewed at the next meeting at which time ideas for getting them out to businesses will be discussed.

Several members then announced upcoming sales and events in which their businesses are participating. The importance of "word of mouth" and networking through Association members was stressed.

Confirm Date, Time, Location & Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 18th, to be hosted by EDC member Margaret Chatay at her business, Westford Hill Distillers on Chatay Road in Ashford. Margaret

has a background in marketing and has offered a tour of her business and discussion on how to promote your business, and this Association. Directions will be provided.

Following a tour of the facility, the meeting agenda will consist of:

Nominations to fill the Position of Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Old Business Discussion

~Review of draft Membership Form

~Review of potential Association projects, including Directory Board for town center

New Business Discussion

~Review of correspondence received

Confirm Time, Date, Location & Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjourn

President Becker adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail D. Metsack

Interim Recording/Corresponding Secretary