

Winterport Business Association Meeting  
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

1. Convene Meeting / Mission Statement
2. Introductions of People Attending Meeting
3. Accept Minutes of Last Meeting  
Of Wednesday, January 13, 2010
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
  1. Recap of Business After Hours at Dr. Hersey's
  2. Winterport's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party – Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>
    - a. Agenda
    - b. Costs Incurred
    - c. Sale of Flags
  3. Upcoming Vote for Executive Committee as well as Nominating Committee
  4. Speaker – Tammy Higgins – Update on New Tax Laws
6. Old Business
7. Open Table – “Idea Exchange”
8. Next Meeting – April 14, 2010

The Winterport Area Business Association  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010  
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine

Meeting began at 6:05 p.m. and Mission Statement was read.

Introductions of those members in attendance were conducted:

Bernie Littlefield, Bel Portraits - President  
Tammy Higgins, TG Higgins Business Services – Treasurer  
Stephanie Francis, My Thrill Studio  
Ann Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House – Secretary  
Brian & Linda Parks, JCM Redemption  
Ray Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House  
Phil Higgins, TG Higgins Business Services  
Deb Newman, Maine Bytes – Vice President

The meeting minutes of Wednesday, January 13, 2010 was voted on and approved unanimously.

Tammy Higgins gave the Treasurer's Report. There is currently \$768.54 in the association's bank account.

Bernie gave a recap of the Business After Hours at Dr. Hersey's. Approximately 25 people had attended and all had an excellent time socializing, eating, and taking a tour of Dr. Hersey's facilities.

Details were discussed about the upcoming Winterport Birthday Celebration on Friday, March 12. Bernie said it will begin by everyone gathering in front of The Old Winterport Commercial House at 5 p.m. The Color Guard from the American Legion will also be in attendance. Bernie will introduce Phil Pitula first as Mr. Rich wherein Phil will recite the original speech Mr. Rich gave in 1860. Bernie will then introduce Phil again but this time as Mr. Kaler who also gave a speech at the original party. Ann stated the reason we were meeting at the Commercial House was because it was here the original celebratory party was and where the papers of incorporation were signed. She also stated there would be a decorated buckboard in front of the Commercial House where Phil Pitula would be.

Phil Higgins said he would be helping with traffic safety by putting some cones around the gathering area and help slow down traffic.

Bernie went on to say this will be followed by everyone gathering at My Fork Restaurant where there will be a slide show, birthday cake and appetizers. Teddy Weston will also be giving a presentation about the history of Winterport. Bernie had been told that Rep. Mike Thibodeau would be attending and has a proclamation to read.

Members asked about advertising for the event. It was stated that there had been an article in The Weekly, online on Village Soup, and the t.v. stations had been notified of the event.

Ray Ronco asked if WABA would like their advertising banner hung on the building. This was accepted.

Deb announced that she knows of a videographer who is going to record the event.

Bernie stated he had gone to the Town Council to see if there were any upcoming plans for further celebrations in the summer. He was told that money was too tight and they had no plans to support any celebrations. Bernie said he plans on going to the budget meeting this month to see what might be able to be done. Maybe by speaking at the Town Meeting in June we will be able to vote in some funds.

Comments were made by members that they would like to see fireworks to commemorate the town's birthday this summer. Maybe there could be a bucket passed around to help with costs and have it sponsored by the WABA.

It was commented that maybe the different organizations or associations could get involved and each one sponsor an event the during week.

Members stated they had heard good things about Winterport made by people here and also from those that had moved here from out of state. Discussion was made about making a gift basket available to let those new people know about the businesses available here.

A motion was brought forth if WABA would reimburse for the cost of the celebration on March 12. There was some concern that not many members had attended the meeting so their opinions wouldn't be represented. After some discussion it was voted that the reimbursement would not exceed \$290.

The collection of \$25.00 dues will begin in June. Comments were made that if businesses did not pay their dues, then it would be time to remove them from the benefit of being on the Business Association's website which is currently giving them free advertising. Deb stated there are about 3,000 hits a month on the website and because we are now on Facebook (where there are approximately 600 fans) and the fact that we are currently working on a video program, that there is plenty of advertising given for the small sum of \$25.00 for the year.

Ann spoke about the flags decorating the Commercial House for the town's birthday party. She put forth a motion to raise funds for WABA by selling 33 star flags to local businesses, residents, etc. The cost to purchase a flag could be \$10.00 without the pole. A question was brought up about selling flag poles as well. Ann said she would look into the cost of them. The motion was approved. Anyone interested in purchasing one or more can do so at the Old Winterport Commercial House, TG Business Services, or Molly's.

Ann brought up that a nominating committee would be put together very soon to vote in the 2010-2011 Executive Committee. Therefore, all dues paying members should think about serving on the board. All positions are open.

Our speaker was Tammy Higgins of TG Business Services who spoke on the new tax laws. She discussed capital gains, bonus depreciation, mileage rates, education credits, deduction for purchase of a new vehicle, credit for a first time homebuyer, the change of address for the IRS for filing, as well as many other items.

There was further discussion about getting Winterport on YouTube and the possibility of having the local schools having a contest to make a favorite video of Winterport. We could also do a video on the Business of the Month and the pre-concert to the Winterport Music Festival.

Business of the Month is Molly's.

Ann suggested another breakfast meeting be planned since it was so successful before. She said Desiree at Winterport House of Pizza had volunteered to host it again.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.