

Winterport Business Association Meeting
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

1. Convene Meeting / Mission Statement
2. Introductions of People Attending Meeting
3. Accept Minutes of Last Meeting
Of Wednesday, November 11, 2009
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
 - a. Business After Hours Recap – TG Higgins Business Services
 - b. Next Business After Hours – Dr. Hersey's (time tba)
 - c. Previous Suggestions Made – Which Ones to Pursue?
 - d. Upcoming Speakers – Who Do You Want ?
 - e. Business Directory
 - f. Brainstorming Session
 - g. Business Of The Month
 - h. Update on Book Celebrating Winterport's 150 Years
6. Old Business
7. Open Table – “Idea Exchange”
8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Special Speaker – Tammy Higgins about doing Business Taxes

The Winterport Area Business Association
Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and Mission Statement was read.

Introductions of those members in attendance were conducted:

Bernie Littlefield, Bel Portraits - President
Jennifer Davis, Play-Date Day Care
Tammy Higgins, TG Higgins Business Services – Treasurer
Joe Brooks, TG Higgins Business Services
John Hersey, Winterport Family Eye Care
Stephanie Francis, My Thrill Studio
Ann Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House – Secretary
Brian & Linda Parks, JCM Redemption

The meeting minutes of Wednesday, November 11, 2009 was voted on and approved unanimously.

Joe Brooks brought us up to date on the Cancer Care Fund. The goal was to raise \$25,000 but he was happy to report the goal had been surpassed and they had now collected approximately \$26,700.

Tammy Higgins gave the Treasurer's Report and stated more dues had recently been collected and there is currently \$768.54 in the account.

Tammy and Ann Ronco gave a recap of December's Business After Hours which was held at The Old Winterport Commercial House but sponsored by T.G. Higgins Business Services. It was reported that there was a terrific turnout of approximately 30 or so who attended. Everyone had fun, there was great food, and Tammy gave out pocket calendars to everyone who attended. Afterwards, many of the attendees went to the tree lighting ceremony at the library.

The next Business After Hours will be hosted by Dr. John Hersey, Winterport Family Eye Care, 14 Parsonage Street, Winterport (corner of Main Street and Parsonage.) The date for this open house is Wednesday, February 10 from 5 – 7 p.m. All are welcome, both businesses and the general public. Food will be served and door prizes given. Bernie will contact Phil Pitula to get this info on the town reader board. Joe suggested we get this into the local newspapers. This will also be put on our Facebook page.

Brian Parks gave a business lead to Dr. Hersey. The Laborer's Union insurance company requires their members only go to participating eye doctors within their medical plan. However, Brian mentioned that there was only one eye doctor within the immediate area and even then it was far to travel to him. He suggested Dr. Hersey get in contact with the union and get on their approved list especially since there were many other laborers in the area that obviously need an eye doctor.

At the last Executive Meeting it was brought up that our members had been making some great suggestions of what the group or the executive committee should be doing and now the question is which ideas do we concentrate on or not pursue. Therefore, Ann passed out a two page list of all of those suggestions which had been made in the past year and a half. It was then asked if the members would look those ideas over and at another meeting we will be talking about what the members think we should pursue. Bernie will also email this list to those unable to attend in order to get their input as well or even if they have some other suggestions of what we should be putting our attention to. Also given out was a list of ongoing projects that we are currently working on. It was noted that there were a couple of items that were omitted so Ann will be doing another update of this list.

One item on this list was to continue with a booth at the Winterport Music Festival. Stephanie asked Bernie's opinion of how the booth went last year. Bernie said it was very positive. People came by not only to ask about

the association but to ask them what else there was to do in town. So they were able to tell them about shops, etc. to go to.

Bernie asked if anyone knew if there was a committee formed yet for the Winterport birthday celebration. Joe said there is a committee that is currently being setup but he may want to talk to Phil Pitula since Phil is considering mixing it in with the Winterport Music Festival in August.

Stephanie also made mention that she was on one of the committees. Bernie stated the Business Association could get involved by helping to get vendors to buy booth space. Stephanie offered to be a liaison and will let the committee know that we're willing to help.

At our next regular meeting in March our speaker will be Tammy Higgins of TG Higgins Business Services. She will be talking about general updates to the new tax laws for both businesses and individuals. Ann also asked if she could give a brief summary of maybe some tax deductions people might not be aware they can take.

It was then asked what other speakers our members might want to hear from and what might be useful. Dr. Hersey stated he has a terrific insurance agent that should come speak to us. Bernie suggested someone he knows who does estate planning and life insurance. Also he knows a financial planner who could speak to us on investing in these tight times. Joe suggested getting an expert in on the new tax laws that will be voted on in June. We could advertise that this person was going to speak and if there was enough interest maybe hold a larger meeting at the Smith School.

Someone suggested getting Mike Michaud to speak on the new tax laws but Joe stated this is more at the state level and Mr. Michaud is more involved on the national level. However, at some other time if we wanted Mr. Michaud to come and speak that Joe would put in a request for him.

It was decided that having this type of speaker would be good for either the April or May meeting. Joe will work on finding a speaker for us.

Ann stated she is currently getting the business directory updated and will be looking for suggestions about what else to add to it. For example, maybe include a coupon next to a business listing. But she is also looking for other ideas as well.

Dr. Hersey suggested doing a block advertising next Christmas. So instead of doing individual ads the businesses can pool their funds and do a full page ad. Therefore, this might give shoppers more incentive to come to the area.

Also, Dr. Hersey noted he is in the process of getting a DOT sign for his business. It was then suggested by a member that we could have someone from the DOT speak to us about how this process is done in case other businesses are looking to do this.

Business of the Month is Molly's ! Their business will now be highlighted on the website and placed on the town's reader board.

Bernie brought us up to date on his book celebrating Winterport's 150 years. He had taken pictures beginning January 1st with the snow storm and will be adding more information throughout the year. He also mentioned to go to the association's website where we could see a panoramic picture he had taken of downtown Winterport during the storm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00. Next meeting will be the Business After Hours at Dr. John Hersey's, 114 Parsonage Street, Winterport on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 from 5 – 7p.m.