

Winterport Area Business Association Meeting
Winterport House of Pizza, Main Street, Winterport, Maine
Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Our Annual Meeting began at 7:10 a.m. and the Mission Statement was read.

Introductions of those members in attendance were conducted:

Bernie Littlefield, BEL Portraits - President
Nancy Tang, Glass Orchids
Ann Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House – Secretary
Tammy Higgins, T. G. Higgins Business Services - Treasurer
Michelle Byram, Whites Farm
Stuart White, Whites Farm
Deb Newman , Maine Bytes – Vice President
Rob Newman, Maine Bytes
Ray Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House
Joe Brooks – Town Council
Val Haskins - Shaklee
Desiree Wilson Viel, Winterport House of Pizza

The meeting minutes of Wednesday, May 11, 2011 was voted on and approved unanimously.

Tammy reported that there is \$2,491.16 in the association's bank account.

Joe, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and Ray, Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated they were recommending the following individuals to the executive board for the 2011 – 2012 term: Bernie Littlefield, President; Deb Newman, Vice President; Tammy Higgins, Treasurer; and Ann Ronco, Secretary. A motion was made to accept such members and asked if there were any nominations from the floor which there were none. Ray stated there was only one nomination which was sent in with dues. Motion to accept the above for the executive committee was passed unanimously.

The budget for 2011-2012 was revised to the following:

Marketing Materials -	\$250.00
Office Supplies -	\$ 50.00
Music Festival -	\$450.00
Christmas/Annual Meeting -	\$ 75.00
Dragway Car Show -	\$100.00
Miscellaneous -	\$250.00

The above was approved unanimously.

Bernie stated WABA will be having a table setup next Tuesday at the voting poles. Joe said he would volunteer to sit at the table for some of the day. A reminder was stated that we need member's business cards, brochures, etc. so WABA can promote businesses. Nancy stated there was a website called Visa Print who does inexpensive brochures, etc.

Nancy spoke of the importance of cross marketing between businesses. Recently Forest Edge, Hampden Natural Foods, and Glass Orchids got together and did a coupon promotion. There's also ways to promote via Facebook. It's good for businesses to work together especially since we all have different customers. She also mentioned an event she will be doing called An Evening of Indulgence where various businesses will have booths.

Volunteers are still needed for the kid's area at the Winterport Music Festival even if they can help for an hour. Ray stated we need to constantly advertise this and to have Ruth print this in her column on a weekly basis. Tammy also asked if Joe could help with the advertising. The following kid's games are being organized for the day with their prospective sponsors:

- Bounce House and Dunk Tank – My Thrill Studio
- Bubble Station – Sun Garden Learning Center
- Golf – Sonny's Par 3 Driving Range and Golf Course
- Gardening Station – White's Farm
- Petting Zoo & Pony Rides – Betty Hauger
- Money Table – TG Higgins Business Services
- Face Painting

Bernie said he recently found out that the local girl scouts have disbanded so they will not be doing the face painting this year. Ann said Sun Garden Learning Center wanted to do it so she will ask them if they are still interested.

Deb brought us up to date regarding the Dragway event scheduled for Saturday, July 16. Currently there are 2 bands that will be playing a combination of country, blues, and alternative music and she is working on a possible third band. This will take place from 12noon – 7pm. Admission will be \$5.00 a car (no matter how many people are in the car) and \$3.00 per motorcycle. Deb will be talking to the trophy supplier we had last year to see what is available and we that we will also need prizes. Nancy said she would donate jewelry, Bernie will be donating his time for a portrait, and Winterport House of Pizza also said they would donate a prize.

The public will be voting for the favorite car, etc. Prizes will be handed out earlier than last year, probably 5-5:30pm. Tyler will be a food vendor again. Deb also said various businesses should think about having a booth to display their wares. It was suggested to have 2 lines coming in at the entrance to alleviate a backup.

A suggestion was made to put the WABA booth in the middle of the farmers market or at the front by the street so more people will stop and pickup brochures and cards. Also suggested putting a raffle at the table.

Currently we are collecting dues for 2011-2012. Dues are still only \$25.00. We have had a good turnout of membership forms mailed back. The post office even has been helping us by making a list of correct business addresses.

The executive board of the Hampden Business Association is not responding to inquiries either from the Hampden businesses or from our board. Therefore, it was suggested we should welcome Hampden businesses to join WABA if they wish to.

Stu offered to run the farmers market in town but suggested we be consistent and have it every weekend and keep it short from 10am-noon especially for the farmers. Ray said we would have to check with the town to do this since it is town owned and not private property. Joe said the town council is pro-business but wasn't sure if it could be done this year and suggested Stu bring it up at the July town council meeting. Joe will also bring it up to Phil Pitula to see if he has any feedback. Stu also suggested we move the market to one of the schools or at least a bigger area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2011, Winterport House of Pizza, 7am.