

# **Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc.**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

175 Main St  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

March 15,2013

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

#### **Attendees:**

David Balfour, Chair  
Keith Fayan, Member  
Moe Rondeau, Member  
Louis Yip, Member  
Dave Richards, Member  
John Lefrancois, Member

#### **Absent:**

Barry Mechanic, Vice Chair  
Carl Freedman, Member  
Paul Eno, Member  
Judy Fischbach, Member  
Sue Tessier MacKenzie, Secretary  
Debra Fournier, Member  
Mary Lynn Bosjack  
Jacqueline Boudreau, Treasurer  
Robert Conway, Member  
Anthony Capuano, Member  
Mark Brodeur, Member  
Helen Moroney, Member  
Ted Garille, Member  
John Gregory, Member  
Richard Murphy, Member

#### **Also Attending:**

Robert Billington, President  
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations

The Meeting was called to order at 12:15pm with a quorum present.

Chairman Balfour questioned the lack of attendance by fellow Board Members. The Chair was advised to contact each Board Member to follow-up on their lack of attendance at meetings.

### **2. Minutes**

On a **MOTION** by Dave Richards, Seconded by Moe Rondeau the Minutes of the January 03, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Boudreau was absent. Ms. Carter presented the Financial Reports dated 03/08/13. Included was the Income Statement YTD July – January 2013.

Income Statement Jan 2013 and the Balance Sheet as of Jan 31, 2013.

Billington updated the Board on the income from the Polar Express and indicated ways to improve the income by 25% for 2013.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dave Richards and a Second by John Lefrancois, the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously as submitted.

Dave Richards asked that the emailing of the Minutes and the Financials was a great idea but he would like to see them on paper at the Board meetings.

#### **4. President's Report**

Billington updated the Board on the need to have each member complete their Conflict of Interest Statements.

#### **5. Other Business**

Billington explained that the Tourism Council was going to sponsor the establishment of the State Society of Rhode Island. The Society would help support the RI Cherry Blossom Festival. He has asked Keith Fayan to perform the incorporation work at an estimated fee of \$1,500 along with the trade marking of the name RI Cherry Blossom Festival. Billington asked that the Board approve the incorporation by Mr. Fayan and the trade marking work. Mr. Fayan out an abundance of caution, abstained from voting on the initiative.

Upon a **Resolution** by Dave Richards and a Second by Moe Rondeau, the Motion/Resolution was approved to ask Mr. Fayan to incorporate the State Society of Rhode Island and trademark the Rhode Island Cherry Blossom Festival. The vote was unanimous.

Moe Rondeau suggested we hold the Annual Meeting of the Tourism Council on a different date from the Annual Dinner. The Board agreed.

John Lefrancois explained in depth his plan to raise funds for the Visitor Center and the BVTC with a program of concerts, shows and meetings. The Board was receptive to Mr. LeFrancois' programs. He said that after all expenses were paid for the events he would split the profits 50/50.

Keith Fayan cautioned the Board about being involved with events that have Liquor Liability involved.

Dave Richards asked the Board to be resolved around the idea that the President will write a letter of recommendation for John Lefrancois events.

Billington then presented the work plan from the Rhode Island Foundation's Institute for Non-Profit Excellence.

Mr. Richard's spoke about his uneasiness with the INE plan if it changes the quick-footed and agile nature of the BVTC's work. He expressed his concern about the program hurting the future of the Council. Mr. Fayan spoke strongly about this program being about Governance and that the Council would be able to grow well into the future if the plans come to fruition.

Mr. Lefrancois spoke about his long-standing interest in the Executive Director having a Contract of Work.

After a lengthy discussion the Board agreed to move forward with the INE plan for the Tourism Council. Gayle Gifford of Cause and Effect would be the company that the Tourism Council will hire to undertake the work we are interested in having done. (Work Plan is attached)

Upon a Motion by Dave Richards and Seconded by Moe Rondeau the meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert D. Billington, President