



Wethersfield Tourism Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 29, 2013 5:00 pm
Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room

- 1) Call to order - Chair Traczyk called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
- 2) Roll call (5 members required for quorum) - Members Traczyk, Hall, Forsdick, McHugh, Aforismo, St. Onge and Ford in attendance.
- 3) Approval of Minutes – October 2013 – Member Forsdick motioned to approve the minutes, Member St. Onge seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.
- 4) Open issues (Old Business)
 - a) Updates
 - i) Wethersfield Heritage Trail – Grant Status – Mr. Gillespie reported that Connecticut Humanities has informed the Town of an award of \$35,000 to implement the project. Staff are waiting for the formal paperwork in order to place the matter before Town Council. Once the grant is officially received the stakeholders group will convene to begin the process which is expected to take 1 year. Chair Traczyk noted that one of the first orders of business will be to establish an official project title as “Heritage Trail” conflicts with the Town’s bicycle trail. Chair Traczyk noted that it is important to note that this is a project recommended in the OW Master Plan.
 - ii) Pita Group - Newsletter Proposal- Members discussed the proposal from the Pita Group in the amount of \$3,000. Mr. Gillespie reported that the Commission has a PO in the amount of \$1,800, therefore the costs from this year’s budget would be \$1,200. Mr. Gillespie was directed to negotiate a contract with the Pita Group for the newsletter design services.
- 5) New Business
 - a) Photo Contest – November 12 Deadline – A meeting was scheduled for November 20 to judge the contest photographs.
 - b) Holidays On Main – December 5 – Members discussed the details of this year’s event. Member Forsdick noted that the trolley will be present.
 - c) Salute To Business – December 12 – Members discussed whether they would like to nominate a Tourism award, there was consensus that no award would be issued this year on behalf of the Tourism Commission.
- 6) Reports – Affiliate Commissions/Organizations

- a) Economic Development & Improvement Commission – D McHugh reported on plans for residential use of the Masonic Building and ongoing efforts to coordinate events more closely with the Chamber of Commerce.
 - b) Central Regional Tourism District - River Valley – K Sullivan not present.
 - c) CT Convention and Sports Bureau (CTCSB) - C. Hall – no report.
 - d) OW Shopkeepers – C. Ford reported on a high quality Scarecrows on Main Event.
 - e) WHS – Elaine St. Onge reported on a sold out Lantern Tour schedule and Prison Tours. Members discussed whether it would be beneficial to pursue funds for tour speaker/headphone equipment to improve tour experience.
 - f) WDS – K. Sullivan – The Thanksgiving Dinner event was discussed.
- 7) Other Business – Chair Traczyk noted that the Commission has member vacancies that need to be filled and reported on the recent visit from the sister city delegation from Nagayo, Japan.
- 8) Next Meeting November 26, 2013. Chair Traczyk suggested that the December meeting should be scheduled to an earlier date and could be held as more of a social meeting. The December meeting will be held on December 19 at the Silas Robbins House at 5 p.m.
- 9) Adjournment – Member Forsdick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m., member Hall seconded the motion and the vote showed all members in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter Gillespie

Town Planner