

## **Minutes: Bethel Business Association meeting – August 6, 2008**

Chair Rick Benson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

The minutes of the 7/2 BBA meeting were accepted as submitted. The Treasurer's report indicated a total cash balance of \$7,227.05, and dues-paid memberships at 61.

**Recreation Trail Walk:** There was considerable discussion of the upcoming Sept. 18 trail walk. John Dutton developed a program for developing the Branliere Forest Recreation Trail over 20 years ago, but it was never put into effect. He is interested in going forward with it, and at the trail walk, he will discuss the trail's history and his development plan. Scott Putney also will talk about his memories of growing up downtown and spending plenty of time on the trails. The trail walk is slated for 5:30 p.m., with participants meeting at the downtown parking lot, after which the talks and food will begin at 6:30 at Paradigm Consulting.

**Old Home Day:** There was some enthusiasm for starting an Old Home Day in Bethel, since the town does not have an annual event that draws people. Nick Nikolaidis proposed several elements that could make it a success, including a parade, some kind of event in the Town Hall, farmer's market, concert by the Constitution Brass Quintet and Bob Dean and the Pea-Pickers, and finishing up with a barbecue. The Town Hall ribbon-cutting in 2010 was thought to be the best opportunity for kicking off an event of this magnitude, especially since it would involve considerable coordination by multiple civic organizations in town. It was also proposed that alumni weekend would be a good time to hold the event in the years after its initial kickoff.

**Legislative Q&A:** A tentative date of October 16 was set for a candidates' Q&A forum. Invited candidates would include those for local senate and representative seats. Likely location is the school cafeteria, due to the expected turnout.

**Other discussion:** Everyone was happy to hear that the Brick Store will be re-opening soon, possibly in September, with a focus on Vermont products.

And, since it's never too early to start planning, the Home and Garden Show is slated for March 7.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m. The next meeting will be Sept. 3.

Jamal Kheiry  
Secretary