

Minutes: Bethel Business Association meeting – Dec. 2, 2009

Meeting called to order by Chair Matt Washburn at 6:33 p.m. Oct. 22 and Nov. 4 secretary's reports accepted as submitted. Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted, with a total cash balance of \$6,966.77.

Taste of Bethel dinner: Treasurer Sue Griffin reported that gross receipts were \$1,898, and Nick Nikolaidis noted that another \$30 should be added to that due to the Country Sampler buying three tickets that were previously going to be traded for ad space. That brings the net after expenses to \$1,749.69. The money will be allocated to help pay for purchase and maintenance of the flower baskets that beautify the downtown in summer.

BBA members and officers at the meeting reported that feedback on the event was very positive from attendees, and that only four ticket-holders didn't show up, and two of those were known to have been ill at the time. The consensus was that the event was popular enough to warrant holding it again next year.

Christmas decorations: Rick Benson and Matt Washburn will put up decorations at the town parking lot on Saturday, Dec. 5. The rest of the decorations were put up through the efforts of our firefighters and Bev Washburn and Ellen Nobile.

Yellow ribbons: Bev bought the last five large, wood cutouts of yellow ribbons made by students at RTCC. Proceeds are used to help pay for buses to bring Vt. National Guardsmen and Guardswomen home for Christmas. Meeting attendees voted unanimously to give \$50 to pay for half of the \$100 cost. It was discussed that the Bethel Area Rotary would be approached for the other \$50, and the ribbons would be wired to the five light poles on the bridge.

Legislative breakfasts: Neal Fox suggested changing the format of the meetings, because the current format is very loose and unstructured, which doesn't always leave time for citizens to ask questions on topics that concern them the most. It was decided that the best way to avoid this problem would be to choose four broad topic areas that taxpayers are most interested in learning more about, and having each area be the focus of a legislative breakfast. The topics agreed were school funding, energy/power generation, and financing/taxes. Since financing/taxes is a big topic, it can be split into two meetings.

Home Show: This will take place on the Saturday after Town Meeting, which will be March 6 next year, and it was decided the hours would be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. instead of to 4 p.m. There was discussion around food vendors, and it was concluded that just one or two would be better than several, to ensure they get good exposure and brisk business.

Town Hall: Neal reported that bid packages will go out Dec. 11, and the bid will be awarded Jan. 12.

Nick invited everyone to the Bethel Historical Society's Annual Christmases past meeting on Monday, Dec. 14th, at 7pm. He mentioned how popular the program has become over the last few years.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Next meeting will be Jan. 6, 2010.

Jamal Kheiry
Secretary