

## Board of Director Minutes

### **Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting July 29, 2011**

**Explorer Boat  
45 Madeira Ave.  
Central Falls, RI**

#### 1. Roll Call

##### Attendees:

David Balfour, Chair  
Barry Mechanic, Vice Chair  
Moe Rondeau, Member  
John Lefrancois, Member  
Paul Eno, Member  
Carl Freedman, Member  
Debra Fournier, Member

##### Absent:

Louis Yip, Member  
Keith Fayon, Member  
Sue Tessier MacKenzie, Secretary  
Jacqueline Boudreau, Treasurer  
Judy Fischbach, Member  
Robert Conway, Member  
Anthony Capuano, Member  
Mark Brodeur, Member  
Helen Moroney, Member  
Ted Garille, Member  
John Gregory, Member  
Richard Murphy, Member  
Dave Richards, Member

##### Also Attending:

Robert Billington, President  
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations  
Diane Mailloux, River Environmentalist  
Matt Prendergast, Boat Captain

2. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm with a quorum present which included a river cruise.

#### 3. Minutes

On a MOTION by Carl Freedman, seconded by Paul Eno, the Minutes of the May 27, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

There was a MOTION by Moe Rondeau and seconded by Paul Eno to TABLE the Financial Reports until the next Board meeting. This Motion failed for lack of votes.

After a brief discussion between the Board members, Mr. Eno made a MOTION which was seconded by Mr. Freedman to accept the Treasurer's report dated 7.25.2011 as presented. Unanimously approved.

#### 5. President's Report, Old Business, New Business

Robert Billington updated the Board on the following projects and programs:

- a. The Rhode Island Cherry Blossom Festival
- b. The Blackstone Valley Bike Stripe
- c. The William Wheat Chocolate Factory
- d. Blackstone Valley Leisurely Bike Tours
- e. The Annual Dinner slated for September 22nd (distributed invitation)
- f. The Blackstone Valley Explorer
- g. NPS Office of Sustainable Tourism Lab for October, 2011
- h. Possible Heritage Corridor becoming a National Park (Discussions began in 2003 with Mr. Billington with the Slater Mill Association)
- i. Blackstone Culinaria for September, October & November
- j. Purchase of Sleigh for the Polar Express Event
- k. State Tax Officials meeting on October 1st to discuss new tourism taxes
- l. Chocolate Mill Overlook in Central Falls
- m. RI Sports Commission; the impact on the Blackstone Valley
- n. Pawtucket Visitors Center cutback from \$55,000 to \$27,500.
- o. Results from Cherry Blossom Festival went to the Maintenance Fund
- p. Circulated brochure on the 2011 Tourism For Tomorrow Award Winners (BVTC won this award in 2008)

#### 6. Adjournment

On a MOTION by Mr. Eno and by seconded by Mr. Rondeau, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Billington, Ed. D.  
President