

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

Board of Directors Meeting  
The Woonsocket Call  
75 Main Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

May 28, 2014

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

#### **Attendees:**

David Balfour, Chair  
Paul Eno, Member (by phone)  
Keith Fayan, Secretary  
Debra Fournier, Member  
Dave Richards, Member  
Louis Yip, Member  
Judy Fischbach, Member (by phone)  
Mary Lynn Bosiak, Member

#### **Absent:**

Barry Mechanic, Vice Chair/Treasurer  
John Lefrancois, Member  
Anthony Capuano, Member  
Mark Brodeur, Member  
Helen Moroney, Member

#### **Also Attending:**

Robert Billington, President  
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations  
Gayle Gifford, Cause and Effect Inc

With the approval of the Board the President's Report was presented.

### **1. Presidents Report**

Billington updated the Board on discussions with Warner Brothers and Rail Events Inc. regarding their contract with a new Polar Express being offered in the Blackstone Valley. The event will be held in Grafton, MA. After two weeks of discussions with Warner Bros Inc. the Tourism Council made little headway with arguing their point that allowing another Polar Express to operate in the Blackstone Valley will be detrimental to our operations and our ability to help the communities we serve.

He updated the Board on the Buy Bud Do Good Campaign that we undertook in early May through our Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful Program.

Billington updated the Board on negotiations being held with a restaurant corporation to move into the Visitor Center in Lincoln.

He announced that four candidates have been suggested to serve on the BVTC Board of Directors. He is working with the Governance Committee on vetting all candidates. Keith Fayan said that a meeting with all Candidates will be

established by the Committee soon.

Gayle Gifford asked that a set meeting time be scheduled for Board Meetings. The Board settled on the Odd Months and the Second Tuesday of those months for their meetings. They suggested that 12pm be the time for the meeting. Meetings should run no more than 90 minutes.

Billington reminded all Board Members to consider sending someone to the Blackstone Valley Heritage Golf Tournament.

The Meeting was then called to order by Dave Balfour at 12:20pm with a quorum present.

## 2. Minutes

On a **MOTION** by Keith Fayan and Seconded by Dave Richards the Minutes of the April 9th, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

## 3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented. The reports consisted of an Income Statement for July 2013 through March 2014 dated 05/22/14 and a Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2014 dated 05/22/14.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously upon a **MOTION** by Dave Richards and Seconded by Mary Lynn Bosiak.

The 2014-2015 Budget was presented for its second time. Keith Fayan asked about the increase in the Budget. Natalie Carter explained that the increase in the budget was due to a projected increase in Polar Express sales and a projected uptick in Room Tax receipts. She noted that we are hiring two full-time employees. These extra funds will be used to supplement their wages. Geraldine Barclay King and James Toomey are the staff members. Dave Balfour noted the great staff we have and thought their addition would be positive. Upon a **MOTION** by Dave Richards and a Second by Mary Lynn Bosiak the Budget was approved unanimously as presented.

## 4. RI Foundation Institute for Non-Profit Excellence Discussion

Gayle Gifford spoke about the end of the first year of her work with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Inc. She is pleased with the progress of our work even though some aspects have been slow. She invited all Board members to attend our every two week planning sessions that are held at the Tourism Council offices with the staff and the Chairman. Gayle suggested a staff and Board Retreat be scheduled in the Fall. Dave Balfour congratulated Gayle on all of her fine work on our behalf.

Paul Eno then offered his resignation by phone. Dave Richards suggested that he not resign just yet. Mr. Eno rescinded his resignation until a later date.

Upon a **Motion** by Dave Richards and a **Second** by Debra Fournier the meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm. The Board voted unanimously to approve this **Motion**.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert D. Billington, President