

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

Board of Directors Meeting  
Navigant Credit Union Headquarters  
Smithfield, RI

July 8, 2014

## **1. Call to Order and Roll Call - 12:04pm**

### **Attendees:**

David Balfour, Chair  
Keith Fayan, Secretary  
Debra Fournier, Member  
Dave Richards, Member  
Judy Fischbach, Member, Treasurer  
Barry Mechanic, Vice Chair (by phone)

### **Absent:**

Paul Eno, Member  
Louis Yip, Member  
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

- 2. Minutes** The Minutes of the May 28, 2014 Board Meeting were approved Unanimously by the Board upon a Motion by Dave Richards and a Second by Judy Fischbach.
- 3. Treasurer's Report** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Judy Fischbach. Judy presented the Balance Sheet dated May 31, 2014, the Income Statement from July 2013 to May 2014, and a Statement of Cash Flows for May 2014. A few questions rose regarding the statements. Judy Fischbach answered each question with satisfaction.  
**Upon a Motion by Dave Richards and a Second by Deb Fournier the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.**

## **4. Presidents Report**

Billington updated the Board on discussions with Warner Brothers and Rail Events Inc. regarding a December 06, 2014 celebration event.

He updated the Board on Pawtucket Visitor Gift Shop, a grant application to the Narragansett Bay Commission, the Amber Valley visit to RI and the our visit to the Amber Valley in mid-July.

Billington updated the Board on negotiations being held with a restaurant that is

intending to move into the Visitor Center in Lincoln. The negotiations were at a slow point due to the high cost of the installation of an exhaust system for the Center. A staff member spoke out of turn about the restaurant which prompted Board Member Fayan to speak of the need for a policy about speaking about Council business without authority.

5. Keith Fayan, on behalf of the Governance Committee, presented the names of Lori Urso, Kerri Stenovitch, Alfonso Azevedo, Tom Kravitz, Michael Gwynn and Courtney Iannacelli as candidates for the Board to consider at their September meeting. The Board will receive a full kit of information on each potential Board member prior to the September meeting.

Gayle Gifford and Keith Fayan noted that new Board members should be reflective to the make-up of the people we serve in the Blackstone Valley. A discussion with the potential members should be made early, so as to vet them for inclusion into the Board of Directors.

#### 6. 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.

She spoke about the planning process and the Mission, Money Matrix. It is being used to assess the work of the Tourism Council.

#### 7. Other Business

Billington noted that he is interested in attempting to create a Harry Potter/Hogwarts Express experience on the railroad.

Deb Fournier, suggested we develop a magazine much like the South County Magazine. Barry Mechanic would like to have a discussion about a magazine.

Upon a **Motion** by Dave Richards and a **Second** by Judy Fischbach the meeting was adjourned at 1:29pm. The Board voted unanimously to approve this **Motion**.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert D. Billington, President