

Gloucester Tourism Commission

Meeting April 16, 2015; 6:00pm

City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, 3rd Floor

Meeting Minutes:

Present: Carol Thistle, Pauline Bresnahan, Laura Dow, John Orlando, Catherine Ryan, Laura Baker, Peter Webber, Karen Ristuben, Paul Frontierro.

Absent: Zach Sears, Tom Daniels

Also Present: Tobin Dominick, Linn Parisi, Mark McDonough, Linda Stockman and Kay Ellis.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting (4/6/15) was made by Paul Frontierro and 2nd by Peter Webber.

Laura Dow sent an e-mail to Discover Gloucester Board inviting them to attend tonight's Tourism Commission Meeting to review and get input on the Draft ByLaws for the new tourism corporation.. A copy of the ByLaws draft was also included in the e-mail.

An update of the Transition Committee was presented by Carol Thistle. The committee has been making progress drafting By Laws and a preliminary budget for the new DMO. A press release was also sent out about the formation of the Transition Team. To date the GDT did not pick it up, but the Chamber of Commerce is sending the release out to their membership. Community Development also included it their social media and the release will be included in the Tourism Commission's newsletter. Linn Parisi requested another copy of the press release. There was also a discussion around current City budget deadlines and tourism financial needs.

Karen Ristuben presented an overview of the Draft Bylaws and highlighted the recent Transition Committee revisions.. Discover Gloucester's Bylaws and the Five Year Plan ByLaws were primarily used as references to create the draft. It was decided to amend ByLaws from "Eleven to Seventeen Directors" and to amend the former minutes to reflect the same. A request was made to remove Chairperson to have to sit on all board /committee meetings. A suggestion was made to have the paid employee on board be responsible for taking the notes. Articles of Incorporation will be done at a later date. All felt it was important for strong wording in future to tie revenues to funds allocated (%) from City to non-profit corporation. It was also noted that the descriptions of the duties of the officers were detailed and lengthy.

Support for amending the current ordinance to structure with funding and also support for “adding requested funding as a line item in budget”.

Carol relayed that she will meet with our Legal representative and will report back about the 501C6 process.

Peter Webber proposed a name for the new corporation “Gloucester Tourism Alliance” with a d/b/a name of “Discover Gloucester”. A vote on this will be taken at a later date.

Kay Ellis volunteered to join the Tourism Transition Team.

Karen wanted to thank the DMO for all their efforts past to present.

Carol presented an update to Stage Fort Park Welcome Center and the projected opening schedule for the month of May. A discussion of the lodging tours with an interest to expand to front-line employees or other interested parties – scheduled for June 2 and 3 and to be confirmed.

Mark McDonough relayed that four monthly Gloucester Block Parties were planned from June through September. Also, a few other City events were in the works.

Peter Webber wanted to mention the May 7 Chamber event focusing on encouraging and educating government on the importance of tourism.

A request was made to change the wording in 5C of the Bylaws to “encouraging travelers to lengthen their stay” instead of the current wording.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:45pm by Peter Webber and second by Karen Ristuben.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 4, 2015

Submitted by: Laura Baker