

Minutes: Bethel Business Association meeting – February 4, 2009

Chair Rick Benson called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Secretary's report was accepted as submitted. No Treasurer's report.

Legislative breakfast: The turnout was good and the conversation between attendees and legislators was lively. The Herald ran the press release summarizing the event. Next legislative breakfast is on Feb. 23, 7:30 a.m. at the Black Forest Café.

Annual meeting: Potential speakers were discussed for this dinner event, to be held on April 1 at the Bethel School cafeteria. A speaker from the Vermont Small Business Development Center is being arranged, and two other speakers with a banking background may also speak regarding financing options for businesses.

Home Show and Business Expo: More than 120 businesses have been approached about participating in the exhibit and a discussion ensued regarding businesses that might be interested in having a booth at the event. The Herald reduced the fee for an insert.

Nominating committee: A committee was formed to discuss potential nominees for the BBA Board. Bev Washburn, Nick Nikolaidis and Ellen Nobile agreed to be on the committee.

Town Forest Trail: Rick discussed this matter with the Selectboard at its last meeting, and they were receptive to the BBA's plans. Town Manager Dell Cloud provided a history of the property, and will contact the County Forester to survey the timber on the land, preparatory to a logging operation that will rough-in a trail.

Downtown benches: The Selectboard is also supportive of the BBA's effort to secure granite benches for downtown. Rick will continue to try to reach Phil Painsi to discuss possibilities with him.

Business inventory: Rick reported that the Plan Commission is applying for a planning grant to update the Land Use plan, which is due in 2011. Neal Fox suggested that combining that effort with the business inventory would be more efficient than separate efforts that essentially gather the same information. BBA members and others are encouraged to add questions to the proposed survey so that it reflects our needs.

BBA Mixer: Due to last-minute scheduling problems, the last mixer at the Black Forest Café with Nick and Heidi Nikolaidis discussing their illustrious and varied careers in catering was sparsely attended. This event will be repeated on Feb. 19, with great food and fascinating stories.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. Next regular meeting is March 4, Mixer is Feb. 19, Legislative Breakfast Feb. 23.

Jamal Kheiry
Secretary