

Bethel Business Association

Minutes of meeting on August 3, 2005

The meeting was opened at 6:40pm, 17 members present

Secretary's Report – accepted as read

Treasurer's Report – accepted as presented

Committee Reports:

BRI

Report by Kirk White

Kirk presented some letter drafts to be sent out to members and prospective members. Kirk also took pictures of buildings available for rent or sale. These should be posted on the website, and to available to send out to lure businesses into town

Membership Drive

Peter contacted the Sec. of State's office regarding the business data file but has not heard back yet

Ideas were discussed about how to get more members to come to meetings and to join again.

Everyone will be asked to submit their email addresses so that they can be notified about upcoming meetings. A show of hands indicated that most members do have email.

Economic Dev Committee

Peter reported that Eric Edelstein and Todd will open offices in the building owned by Kevin Barry

Randolph Nat building is sold and will have 4 apts and a take out food store

Parks & Public Spaces Committee

Report on baskets

New watering girl Liz Clarke is doing a good job but will most likely not be available after she starts at VTC

Welcome to Bethel signs

Nick spoke with Del Cloud about cleaning and trimming brush around signs
Del supplied names of owners to Nick. We hope to keep the area around signs clean and attractive. Perhaps we can plant flowers around them next year.

Neal Fox said that probably the town crew cannot do the maintenance around signs because they are on private property.

Del had mentioned that the cemetery crew could possibly do it.

We should write a letter to all landowners on whose land the signs are located to let them know what we would like to do and to get their permission

Neal Fox said that he noticed more of the medallions missing on the benches downtown. Ellen Nobile reported that she had returned one to the town. Nancy Barr is doing a quilt block with the design of the medallion.

Old Business

Kirk asked Neal about the VT Council on Rural Development.

VT Council on Rural Development is scheduled to be invited for first meeting in Oct.

Neal is wondering if some other organizations in town should also be involved as well as the school. Perhaps the churches, Rotary, Masons

Neal said that the only way something like this will be effective is if there is leadership, someone who will follow up on whatever is decided in the findings

Nick said that he is still hoping that the BBA will sponsor a business Expo such as the one held recently in Chelsea.

Neal said that the event in Chelsea attracted quite a few businesses.

Nick asked that everyone bring an idea in writing to the next meeting about a business expo, when, where and how do you imagine it

Geneva brought up the question about advertising rates on the BBA page

Many questions were raised about members vs non members rates

Report on reception

Success. Nick & Heidi absorbed the expenses for the food

Paradigm sponsored the music

The event was very successful. Maybe we should have a similar event twice a year.

Tickets for VT Castings grill are selling.

Wade said the grill is in but has not been assembled yet

Bulletin Board

Mary wants to know if the BBA will give some \$\$ toward the sign

In order to apply for grants, they usually want to know if there will be matching funds.

Trash cans have been bolted down today. Mary said we need some type of cover to keep out the water.

Thanks to Del Cloud for arranging to have the town crew install them. Doug Marshall installed them on Wednesday, August 3rd.

Nick will write a letter to thank them.

Mary Floyd said the parade on September 10th is shaping up nicely and several floats and fire depts. will be there.

Rotary BBQ, and Mary is getting requests from people to set up on Main Street

Mary said there will be a 50/50 raffle to raise more money for the festival

Nick said that he'd like to do a dinner on Nov 12th or 13th and have the 40th Army Band perform. Neal will check to make sure they are still available

Nick also said that another fund raising idea would be to have a dinner theater in conjunction with the school

Or perhaps revive the HawHee show together with the Fire Dept.

Nick will check into these ideas and report back at the next meeting.

Legislative Breakfasts, set dates

Last Monday of Jan, Feb, March & April

Nick said he wants to invite some folks early instead of waiting till last minute

New business

Kirk said that he thought some of the events mentioned could be held in conjunction with BRI

Kirk mentioned among other things we could have a quilt show or garden show.

This could be held as part of the business fair mentioned by Nick.

Perhaps we could put an ad in the paper asking for volunteers for a specific project or event.

Mary proposed that the BBA sponsor an ad for the BRI.

Chris made the motion to spend up to \$30 for the ad. Passed unanimously.

Kirk will write an ad and will run by Nick

Next meeting Sept 7th, and 22nd

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Nikolaidis

Secretary