

DRAFT Minutes

2014 FOBC Annual Meeting

August 16, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm at the home of Jane Sokolow and Ned Ames by Sue Barnett, president. The slate of officers was read as follows: President, Sue Barnett; vice president, Joan O'Conner; treasurer, David Barnes; corresponding secretary, Jane Sokolow; secretary, Steve Levine; members at large: Patricia Adams, Virginia Lawrence and Joni Wehrli; web master, Virginia Lawrence.

Minutes of the 2013 meeting were read by Steve Levine and approved.

The treasurer, David Barnes, read the treasurer's report as follows: As of August 9, 2014 there is \$5,814 in our account after revenue from dues and Beaverkill books (\$1,693 -- 11 books were sold) and honey sales (\$504) -- and expenses for the period (Aug. 2013 to Aug. 2014) of \$153 for shipment of books, accountant fee and PO Box rental. The honey sales are earmarked for the church anyway, and another \$500 is recommended to bring the church donation up to \$1,000. Adding in \$500 for the LM Library and \$500 for CAS would mean a total of \$2,000 in donations, leaving a balance of \$3,814 in our account -- more than enough to make an additional contribution to the church or other community organization if needed, and we have not yet received this year's member dues with a couple of exceptions.

The issue of our organizations policy regarding donations to local causes was raised by David Barnes and the following statement regarding same was read by Steve Levine: In the 16 years since the formation of the FOBC we have widened the scope of the organization's concerns and support. FOBC's original mission was to *"further the historic preservation of community bridges and campsites.....activities by members are directed at reducing physical and economic deterioration of the surrounding area by disseminating information and providing assistance to residents of the area on subjects useful and beneficial to the community including transportation, roads and development."* Within a broad definition of this mission we have given support not only to the Beaverkill Church and the Town of Rockland historic inventory project but also to flood relief in our region. Building on this, we also feel it is important for us over the long term to focus on the LM/Roscoe community and the local "anchors" that help keep it stable and vital and that are key resources for community residents. In other words, the health of our rural Beaverkill community is interwoven with the health of the surrounding area and we must help ensure the strength of these critical local organizations -- right now both the LM Library and CAS are in the middle of fundraising campaigns for necessary capital improvements and operating funds -- so I am recommending that \$500 be donated to each organization, keeping the door open for a similar donation this year to the Roscoe Library if needed, as well as to the church.

This was followed by a very vigorous discussion that eventually led to the opinion that donations to worthy local causes was in the core interest of the organization.

Carl Obecny made a motion to contribute \$500 each to the Livingston Manor Free Library (LMFL) and the Catskill Art Center (CAS.) Both were seconded and approved.

Sally Cerny reported that through the Livingston Manor Library, oral histories are in the process of being collected from long time residents. Training is available for interviewing and taking of digital recordings for the purpose. Peggy Johansen, chief librarian and the Manor Ink staff has asked for help from experienced members of the FOBC. The report was accepted and approved.

Patricia Adams report regarding the Beaverkill Community Church.

\$15,000 has been raised so far for restoration of the church's steeple and members were reminded that it is a Community Church and can be used for extra-religious purposes such as meetings, musicales, weddings, etc.... Steve Lott is in charge of the steeple restoration and has passed on the following email to Patricia: David already approached me after church last Sunday about the work and what we may need from FOBC. I told him that we may be OK with the funds we have but could be looking for a small (\$1000?) donation. The unknown factor is the condition of the small roof under the bell tower which we won't know until the demolition work is completed. It's possible we may come up a little short, especially if we need to hire a crane for two days rather than the expected one. For now I'm cautiously optimistic that we can work within the budgeted \$15,000. But it would be wonderful if FOBC could step up if needed.

John Adams report on the Bridge and Campsite.

The Beaverkill Covered Bridge is coming up to its 150th anniversary. State repair bids are to go out in October for needed repairs which are slated to begin in the summer of 2015, the 75th anniversary of the CCC. The bridge will be open throughout the winter but will be closed temporarily in the event of a snowfall of 6 inches or more. The stone wall supporting the bridge will also need work for which the DEC has allocated another \$250,000 for the purpose.

Ramsey Adams' Catskill Mountain Keeper report given in his absence by Brian Sullivan(Obecny).

As of now, no decision has been issued by the State regarding fracking policy. Catskill Mountain Keeper has been in Albany regarding environmental effects of oil and gas transport through sensitive areas and promoting renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. Energy practice improvement addresses the effects of "extreme energy" and its potential detrimental effects,

Locally CMK is encouraging the promotion of local foods and suggests capital lending programs to encourage local agriculture to promote healthy foods at local produce markets. In addition we are promoting local tourism to encourage such attractions such as fishing, hiking and camping

Jane Sokolow announces to members to please update any changes, if need be for a new FOBC membership directory.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Levine