

Minutes: FOBC 15th Annual Meeting August 24th, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at the home of Sue Barnett and Jeff Christensen by outgoing president, David Barnes. Thanks were issued to Sue for hosting the meeting and to Stu Root for organizing the annual Musicale at the Beaverkill Church. David turned over the meeting to the president, Sue Barnett.

Slate of officers were announced as follows:: President, Sue Barnett; Joan O'Conner, vice president; David Barnes, treasurer; Jane Sokolow, corresponding secretary; Steve Levine, recording secretary; members at large: Joan Wehrli and Ginny Lawrence, who is also Webmaster. Sue also thanked John Kelly for his years of service including being an editor for the "Stories of the Beaverkill" book, submitting it to the Library of Congress, hosting meetings and occasionally taking minutes. Accepted by Barbara Trelstad and seconded by Stu Root. Minutes of last year's meeting taken by Mary Hall were read by Steve Levine and accepted and approved.

Ramsay Adams reports for Catskill Mountainkeeper:

It was explained that Governor Cuomo and the State political forces were generally in favor of fracking and that efforts to stem this trend must be continued and especially in environmentally sensitive areas such as the entire Delaware watershed area.

Ed Cerny brought up the efforts afoot to expand the State's gambling facilities and an impending statewide referendum would only need a simple majority of voters to see this go forward in establishing at least 4 major full service gambling facilities to be distributed around the state, two of which would be here in Sullivan County.

Church report by Ed Cerny:

Measures to preserve the church have been ongoing and successful. The church's deed is dated 1883 and was incorporated into the Methodist Conference in 1886-7. The FOBC community has contributed generously to the church that has declared its independence from the Methodist Conference and will serve as a community center not only for religious reasons but also for other functions such as weddings, funerals and other extra-religious community gatherings such as the recent Musicales. FOBC has given about \$5000 towards its restoration and maintenance. Steve Lott's report stated that the present bell tower is being restored to its original steeple configuration and should be completed sometime this fall. An appeal was issued that donations may be made for the church's restoration and maintenance may be made to FOBC by adding any amount to your annual dues. A motion was offered for the FOBC to donate an additional \$500 for the church by Mary Hall; approved by Sally Cerny and seconded by Joan O'Connor and passed.

Report from Patricia Adams: Historical Survey

Presently there is an effort ongoing by HIP/BANA to survey historical buildings and landmarks in the Livingston Manor area by a committee comprised of FOBC members David Barnes, Elaine Fettig, Phillip Galgiani Jennifer Grossman, Mia Wilkinson, Sally Cerny, Patricia Adams, Sue Barnett Ethan Cohen, Mia Koener, Peggy Johansen and Vera Farrell. FOBC has already given \$2000 towards the first stage of these efforts Chris Andreola presented a similar survey by HIP/BANA for the Roscoe area that has already been done and copies are available from Patricia to peruse.

Sue Barnett stated that members should make better use of the website as a valuable resource and read the FOBC's mission statement which is seen below.

Beaverkill Covered Bridge report by John Adams:

Funds allocated for the restoration/repair presently stand at \$1,500,000. It is hoped that the New York State Park Commission can add to that to fully fund necessary repairs. It is slated to begin in the fall and take approximately 15 months to complete. John also added, regarding the issues of both fracking and gambling, that lawyers are at the ready to oppose and defend against such incursions into the area.

Steve Levine once again reminded the FOBC of past and present efforts to make members and interested parties aware of the threat from invasive species of plants, namely Japanese knotweed, and offered instructional brochures for the taking regarding same. Mermer Blakesley also mentioned that multiflora rose is in that same invasive category.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Steve Levine, Recording Secretary

FOBC Mission Statement

The Friends of Beaverkill Community is a New York State not-for-profit corporation primarily dedicated to preservation and welfare of the Beaverkill Community, initially the picnic area of the Campsite, the Beaverkill Church, the Covered Bridge, and the Iron Bridge.

The mission of the Friends is three-fold:

- 1) Keep the membership informed about the status of issues of interest to the community, particularly governmental actions proposed for the area. It has not been the position of the Friends to take sides on sensitive issues, merely to present information to the membership;
- 2) Collect and preserve materials relating to the history and lore of Beaverkill;
- 3) Create a written legacy to preserve the heritage of our valley for generations to come. To date we have published two volumes of stories, and a heritage edition.

The website

The purpose of the website is to further the mission of the Friends by posting the material included in our three published volumes, and by keeping residents informed about issues that affect the community. In addition, we have created an online calendar page to announce events in Roscoe, Livingston Manor, and other nearby communities, as well as a writers page where we have begun collecting stories and poems concerning the Beaverkill with the hope that we might one day publish a fourth volume.