

## **Minutes: FOBC Annual Meeting August 29, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm at the home of Sue Barnett, president at her home. 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.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Steve Levine and approved.

The treasurer's report was read by David Barnes as follows: As of August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 there is \$5,492 in our account after revenue during the last year from dues and Beaverkill books(\$1,353) and honey sales(\$210) plus \$525 donated for the church and a \$1,000 friend's donation – and after expenses paid for the period (August, 2014 to August, 2015) that include \$2,750 in donations to the church and 3 community organizations (Livingston Manor and Roscoe libraries and CAS), and other expenses of \$561 including last year's picnic and IT/postage/accounting/bank charges.

Sue announced that a new directory is to be published and advised members to send in any changes to be included and that remaining FOB books are available for \$35.

**Bridge report by Ed Hammerstrom:** It has been reported by the DOT engineers that damage to the bridge is greater than first realized while dismantling the bridge by construction inspectors. It is hoped that they will be able to conform to historical specifications under the circumstances. It was also noted that the ramps and other site areas such as walls, beach access, ranger cabin and other peripheral areas. are not covered by funds allocated for bridge restoration. When the restoration will be complete is not known at this time but work will go on during the winter as conditions permit. The bridge must be signed off and approved by the State History and Preservation Office (SHIPO) upon completion. Eric suggested that FOB could contribute towards peripheral site restoration and Roger Lawrence proposed that \$2000 be earmarked for such purposes and that John Adams be designated as the trustee for such funds. That proposal was put to a vote and passed.

**Report from Sally Cerny** The Local Lives Project with the Livingston Manor Library and Manor Ink was going well interviewing local area residents gathering their “living histories” of Valley life in and around the town of Rockland.

Sue Barnett reported that the Town of Rockland Planning Board meets once a month and that an important issue presently involves the attempt by the chain store, Dollar General to acquire the site on Creamery Road formerly occupied by the lumber yard and behind the Library. A member of the town planning board, Mr. Chris Andreola, stated that the board has rejected initial plans by Dollar General and is now undergoing an appeals process. He implored to public to offer their feedback regarding same and can do so at Planning Board meetings that take place once a month. It is also possible to issue feedback via the Town’s web site, [www.townofrocklandny.com](http://www.townofrocklandny.com) . Also discussed was the disposition of other idle properties and proposed possible future plans for them. It was apparent that most of the membership opposed Dollar General’s plans and that it may threaten long term established businesses in town such as Pecks Super Market.

Randy Lewis announced that plans are in the works for a new Destination Restaurant and Beer Hall to be established in town and an Economic Development Hall. Included with this is the establishment of a Riverwalk that will go from Renaissance Park and behind all the buildings that back on to the Willowemoc River. Plans must be approved by the State and Mid-Hudson Council. It is hoped that grants will be forthcoming for such a project.

David Barnes announced that CAS has new board members and advisors and it is hoped that New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) will help to fund the \$400 to 500 K to complete the upstairs project. It is also hoped that CAS will be able to attract more renowned artists from the US and beyond.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Levine, recording secretary.