

MINUTES FOBC 14th ANNUAL MEETING  
August 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the home of Patricia and John Adams by David Barnes, the president, at 5:12 PM.

Thanks were offered to Stuart Root and all of those who had made the Musicale possible. It had occurred earlier the same afternoon at the Beaverkill Church. FOBC dues are being accepted by Sue Barnett and Jane Sokolow and checks can also be sent by mail. The address is in the Directory. New, updated, copies of the Directory are available, re-designed by Joan O'Connor.

John Kelly read the minutes from last years meeting. Jane moved that the minutes be accepted; Judy Rosen seconded; all approved.

Sue delivered the Treasurer's Report:

There was \$10,000 in the account after revenue from dues, honey sales and book sales, as well as expenses from donations to the Historical Survey and to the Margaretville Flood Relief program. Jane moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Barbara Trelstad seconded and all approved.

Officers were discussed.

It was noted that the office of Vice President is still unfilled. Ned Ames nominated Orpheus. Ramsay Adams nominated Peggy Shaw and she accepted. The nomination was approved by all and Peggy became Vice President. David Barnes is the President; Sue Barnett is the Treasurer; Steve Levine is the Secretary; Jane Sokolow is the Corresponding Secretary; Patricia Adams is a Board Member at large.

Jane Sokolow gave the Corresponding Secretary's report:

Jane will be sending out announcements for community public events like Farmers Markets, etc. as well as of the deaths of community members. She reminded the membership to check the website and to send in material.

Patricia Adams gave the report on the Beaverkill Church:

She reminded the meeting that FOBC began, in part, in response to the initiative of the Church to cover the building in vinyl siding. One of FOBC's first projects was to raise money to provide for the painting of the church at that time and for the future. She reminded the meeting that the C in FOBC is for Community and that it is there for a reason. This year, the name of the Church had been changed from Methodist to Community, a reflection of the fact that it was in a process of separating from the Methodist conference. The Church owns only the building and its footprint. The building is the same at this time as it was at the beginning. The Church board is talking with the District Superintendent of the Methodist Conference about the possibility of having the church bought and used as a community church. The Church itself is capable of providing funds for its purchase. She discussed the variety of speakers that had addressed the congregation. The schedule of speakers as well as many of their

talks will be available on the FOBC website. The Church is now in the process of negotiating the matter of its ownership, purchase and legal entity. Consequently, the matter of the siding of the Church as been put off, pending its designation. Steve Lott, the Treasurer of the Church, was not present to discuss the finances involved.

Patricia said the the Beaverkill history books were available for \$40.

John Adams returned to the matter of the Church. What, he asked, did the group feel about having the Church under the aegis of the FOBC? Barbara asked that we discuss this in terms of what that would mean about responsibilities and liabilities. It would be a great asset for the community but she thought that the group should know more. Doug Fettig said that there were issues with ownership and non-ownership and that it needed to be clarified. Patricia asked if the group were interested in pursuing the matter and most raised their hands.

Historic Inventory:

David Barnes, Pat Pomeroy, Patricia Adams, Vera Farrell and Elaine Fettig were listed as being on the committee. The district now went up to Burnt Hill Road. They had received several grants, including from Arts and Heritage, NY Preservation, Renaissance, O'Connor Foundation, etc. They are through the first phase of the inventory with more to happen in the Fall. Elaine Fettig added that Neil Larsen will meet with the group on how to make more people excited about the project. The matching grants have allowed the group to spend money that they had already collected. She asked for additional contributions to match additional matching grants, as well as for more people to participate. Jane asked about expanding the footprint of the mission. That will happen in Phase 2.

FOBC agreed to make an additional \$1,000 contribution to the Historical Survey.

There was a discussion about the establishment of a Museum of the Catskills. Patricia said that they had met with legislators and others and arrived at ideas for three different kinds of museums:

- Hotel, entertainment, comedy
- Wildlife and nature
- Heritage and history

There is a building in Hurleyville that is available and the group is working with them and with the Time in the Valley Museum.

Terry Schultz asked that the Catskill Flyfishing Museum be a part of the loop.

Ramsay Adams, Ilene Ferber and Bruce Janklow reported on the activities of the Catskill Mountainkeeper:

Ilene discussed fracking and said that the state was getting ready to issue regulations regarding fracking. There was a lot of activity to attempt to keep it out of the area and out of the watershed. When the regulations come out, there are many law suits that are ready to go, including some by Mountainkeeper. A study on the impact of gas drilling on health was needed and there is an effort to push the governor to undertake such an investigation. An effort is also underway to get individual communities to pass ordinances to make fracking difficult. Mountainkeeper and others were putting together

funds to help these communities. John Adams asked if the membership of FOBC was willing to sign on for an ordinance that would oppose fracking. Most said yes. There were indications that if the governor moved forward in support of fracking, he would respect home rule. There followed a discussion of what different towns had done and where individual legislators stood on the matter.

Bruce Janklow talked about the initiative for local agriculture:

The rationale for support was that it was the least invasive form of development. The area needed economic development and agriculture would help the local economy and property values. It would bring fresh, healthy, local food to the area and would have a benign effect on the environment. He encouraged the group to go to the Roscoe Farmers Market. Rose Brown put in a pitch for the Liberty Farmers Market.

Ramsay invited everyone to come and meet Julian Schreiber, candidate for Congress in a redistricted area, at his house on September 1 and to ask him about where he stood on fracking and other matters.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM