

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

53 HERM TOWNE ROAD

Gouverneur, NY 13642

315 287-0331

www.gouverneurchamber.net

Agenda

Regular Meeting: January 8, 2024

Minutes of November 6, 2023 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received December & January Elks Club Newsletters, rec'd letter from Senator Mark Walczyk, 2 ad offers from North Co This Week, Christmas card from Community Health Center of No Co, NNY Community Foundation magazine and several emails and magazines

Committee Reports: DBA Lists for November & December not received yet.

Old Business: Report on November Business in Spotlight at Casablanca
Report on Christmas Parade on December 2nd

New Business:

St Lawrence County Visitor & Relocation Guide – Advertising offer

Jim Bowhall Memorial Donation

Bench or Tree in Memory of Past Chamber Directors

Update on 'Welcome To Gouverneur' sign by Waltons – BOCES helping?

Gardenshare Letter of Erica's leaving (Farmer's Market Manager)

Chamber Annual Dues – Letters To Go Out Soon – Same Categories?

Business of the Month December: Cleve Greenhill Well Drilling

Business of the Month January: Marble City Fitness

Student of Month: December is Chloe Bocclair

Next meeting: Feb 5th

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce
53 Herm Towne Road
Gouverneur, New York 13642
315-287-0331
Minutes of November 6, 2023 Meeting

The November 6th meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 12:01 by President Tim Reddick. Attendees (in person and on Zoom) were Executive Director Donna Besaw, Directors Ray Babowicz, Melissa Simione, Jim Bowhall, CJ Fitzgerald, Dianne Cocco, Shari Barnhart, Michelle Blackburn, Chelsea Donovan, Christian Gillan, Donna Lawrence and member Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press.

Guest Speaker Jackie Kelly, Superintendent of the Gouverneur School District and Dale Munn Business Manager spoke on the \$57,000,000 Proposed Capital Project for the Gouverneur Schools. The Capital Project does not anticipate an increase in property tax. There are improvements to all school buildings, the bus garage and a sports complex. The program was very informative, and the chamber encourages the residents to pass the Capital Project at the December 12th vote.

The minutes of the October 2nd meeting were approved by a motion from CJ and seconded by Ray. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Donna Besaw reported receiving only \$200 toward the gazebo project which was forwarded to the village. Expenses totaled \$2,805 in October leaving a balance of \$17,347 in the checking account of which \$1,175 was Eldon Conklin memorial fund. Ray made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Christian seconded.

Correspondence: The Chamber received the November newsletter from the Elks Club, a handwritten letter from a prison inmate requesting Gouverneur materials and several miscellaneous emails.

Committee Reports: **DBA List for October** was received and welcome letters sent to (Foothills Redemption, Rt 3 Auto Repair and Rt 3 Bait & Tackle) in Star Lake, Fund Development in Antwerp and Sanderson Electrical in Hermon.

Old Business: **Trunk or Treat** was attended by CJ with a hot cocoa & cider stand as well as Melissa and Diane with a trunk. Ray reported that 1400+ children attended, which was a little more than our previous best year (before Covid) and 57 trunks which was quite a few more than usual. CJ reported that the hot cocoa & cider bar went well. And Melissa said we handed out most all the candy that had been purchased. What was left over was donated to the Rec Center. **New Sign Bracket** request of the BOCES students. Tim talked to Robert the teacher and they are interested, only waiting for final approval from the principal.

New Business: **Christmas Parade** Planning was again discussed. Donna reported that reindeer are reserved, stuffed animals received, Santa is lined up, church is reserved, cookies ordered, posters ordered, 160 invitation letters were sent, Connie will emcee, and Bob Hughes will come with sound system. It was discussed that since we do not have a gazebo for cover, we will rent a tent again, but it didn't need to be as big as the Flag Day tent. Donna Besaw made the motion that we rent a 20 X 10 tent, Christian seconded and all were in favor. Chris Fitzgerald will decorate the tent according to CJ. We also voted to give a \$50 check for the best float and believe that porta pots are not needed. The basement of the Methodist Church is open, and we are able to use their restrooms. Chris Fitzgerald sent info with CJ about the nature trees in the village park. The lights for those two trees are in very bad shape and he suggested purchasing 10 strings of 100 lights for each of those trees. Donna Besaw made a motion for Chris to purchase at Small Town Supply the needed lights and conduit at a cost of up to \$600. Michelle seconded the motion and the motion carried. Donna Lawrence reported that the Lions Club will also be selling Christmas trees that day and that a tree would be donated to the Chamber to be decorated and sat next to Santa's chair. **North Country This Week Ad:** We received an ad / offer to advertise in the 'Holiday Showcase' paper for the county and decided to pass at this time. **Farmer's Market Update:** A meeting was held on October 26th at the conclusion of the farmer's market that day to give a summary of the 2023 season. The email that was sent shows increased vendor attendance, increased customers, SNAP processing etc. Overall, it was a very successful year. Tim suggested that more food trucks would also boost the market attendance.

Business In Spotlight is being held at the Casablanca on November 15 and our chamber co-sponsors the event with the county chamber. Everyone that is available is encouraged to attend and it is running from 5:00 – 7:00. There is a \$10 charge for appetizers. **Missing Chamber Banner:** At the conclusion of the Pumpkin Festival, we did not have our chamber banner. The directors in attendance were asked if anyone had information on it and no one knows what happened. We had contacted the fair association to see if it had possibly left behind and they checked into it and it was not there. We will order another from Arnes to replace the missing. **Small Business Saturday:** A vote was approved to advertise in the Tribune Press for Small Business Saturday as well as put some ads on Facebook encouraging residents to ‘Shop Small’. **Membership Confusion:** We received an online membership form and payment of \$25 as ‘Friend’ from a local business. Since it is so late in the year, we’ve decided to accept the \$25 membership but to send a ‘thank you’ email and explain that the dues are \$125 but since the year is almost over, we’ll accept the payment and list that business on our online membership directory. **Business of the Month for November** is Empire Detailing of Harrisville. **Student of the Month for October** is LeAnna Doyle of Culinary Arts II and **Student of the Month for November** is Logan Ossont of Building Trades. We will not hold a December meeting but will still send out our newsletter in December. Our next meeting will be January 8, 2024. This meeting was adjourned at 1:14 by Jim and seconded by Diane.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Besaw