

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

53 HERM TOWNE ROAD

Gouverneur, NY 13642

315 287-0331

www.gouverneurchamber.net

Agenda

Regular Meeting: December 1, 2025

Minutes of November 3, 2025 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received December Elks Club Newsletter, a note from Gardenshare (that I'll read) and several emails

Committee Reports: DBA list for October & November show new businesses: Iron & Relics Antiques of Harrisville, Rohe's Quartz, Ravens Nest and Chapter Forty of Gouverneur, Green Pinky Farm & Produce of Star Lake and Bylow Farms of Hammond. Since these lists were received late November, we will send them our usual membership letter after January 1st (although a couple have already joined) as it's too late in the year to pay ½ price now and in a month to pay the full amount again.

Old Business: Advertising in Tribune Press for Festival of Trees (need to vote ATF)

We incurred ½ Cost of 16 Foot Trailer after Village Agreed to ½

New Business: Christmas Parade: Methodist Church Is All Set

Reindeer are Confirmed Coming

Permit Received from Village

Festival of Trees: Number of Trees?

Report on Attendance at Start Up

Student of Month of November: Lilah Stephenson of Criminal Justice

Business of Month of December: DOT Physical & Family Health With Rachel Raven

Next meeting: January 5th

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce
53 Herm Towne Road
Gouverneur, New York 13642
315-287-0331
Minutes of November 3, 2025 Meeting

The November 2025 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 8:00AM by President Brooke Plowman. Attendees were Vice President Donna Lawrence, Executive Director Donna Besaw, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Melissa Simione, Dianne Cocco, Connie Stowell, Ray Babowicz, Michelle Blackburn, Mickael White, and members Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur, Mayor Ron McDougall, Jessica Hentz of Gouverneur Savings & Loan & Joe Fitzgerald.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved by a motion from Michelle and seconded by Ray.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report with \$274 collected and expenses totaled \$927 leaving a balance of \$12,046 in the checking account. Ray made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Melissa seconded; the motion carried.

Correspondence: Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received a November Elks Club newsletter, Northern New York Community Foundation Newsletter, Oriental Trading Magazine and received several emails.

Committee Reports: The DBA list for September is not received yet. Also received last night through our website is a new member Rohe's Quartz & Candle. They paid full price dues online; Donna will refund a check today for \$62.50 they overpaid.

Old Business: Trunk or Treat report by Melissa & Brooke: They reported it went well, and Ray said there were 745 children and 604 adults attending. We ran out of cider but had 2 bags of candy left. There were 38 'Trunks' according to Ray. Our theme was Little Red Riding Hood. **Farmer's Market Year End Report:** Melissa reported that the last FM was rained out. We are undecided if it's better to go with Gardenshare or not use 'Farmer's Market' title and go with managing the market ourselves and see if we have better vendor attendance. We will discuss it again in the spring. Erin Cuseo from Gardenshare plans on attending a future meeting to give us a full annual report.

New Business: Christmas Parade: The Christmas invitation letter goes out soon. Donna Lawrence will add another page explaining the Festival of Trees and that will be included in the invitation. Donna B reported that BOCES is not able to do 300 cookies but thought they could do 200. Tara Nichols also sent an email that due to health reasons, she is not able to do her cookies either. After discussion, it was decided we would go with 150 cookies each from the two remaining bakers and 200 from BOCES for a total of 500 cookies. Connie will again emcee the parade, and we have workers to help with parade line up. We currently have stuffed 'animals' left totaling 310 and shouldn't need to order any more. We will purchase some candy canes for the older children. Connie has stopped at the Methodist church a couple times but hasn't been able to catch anyone yet. She will go again after this meeting to try and get approval to use the basement of the church that evening. **Festival of Trees:** CJ reported that the Christmas village was almost finished and sent photos around. We estimate to have 20 – 25 trees decorated but need helpers at that event. Donna Lawrence made a motion that the Chamber buy a Christmas tree from her for \$100 and she will give the decorations needed, Melissa seconded and motion carried. **CD is Expiring** Michelle advised us, what did we want to do? Jessica gave us the Savings & Loan rates and they are similar to the Community Bank rates. Ray made a motion that we roll it all over for 3.5% for 7 months again at the Community Bank. Melissa seconded the motion and the motion carried. **Webmaster Fees** were discussed again after receiving information from Coughlin Printing about their web fees. We feel Shari should receive an increase in her monthly stipend, Donna Lawrence made a motion that we increase her stipend by \$100, Donna Besaw seconded and the motion carried. **Covered Trailer** would be handy for storing our decorations for Christmas and

other holidays, CJ remarked. They are currently stored at the village and must be moved when equipment is needed, must be cleaned before being put on display etc. If stored in a covered trailer, it could be housed at the village office building. A couple of options she had prices for were 14' at \$6,999 and 16' at \$8,199. These are for sale through A-Plus, a current chamber member. Donna Besaw made a motion to purchase the 16-foot trailer if the village would incur half of the cost, Michelle seconded and the motion carried. Mayor Ron McDougall will bring it up at the village meeting and get back to us. CJ also brought up that she felt a colored printer should be purchased for Donna Besaw so our posters and flyers can be printed in color and that will be discussed at a later meeting. **Advertisement Offers from North Country Now & No Co This Week** were discussed, and we declined at this time. **Dates for 2026 Events** were discussed and are: May 6th Banquet, June 13th Flag Day Parade, Village Wide Garage Sales July 16, 17 & 18th, and December 5th for the Christmas Parade. We believe weekend of September 20th is tentative date for Pumpkin Festival and November 23rd for Trunk or Treat. **Small Business Saturday** is November 29th, and Connie made a motion that we advertise in the Tribune Press and run the same size ad as last year. CJ seconded and the motion carried. **Dues and Options for 2026** were discussed and we decided to leave everything the same. **Chamber Window Stickers** are needed, and we also have the option to purchase them as cling instead of being sticky. Ray made a motion to order 500 of the cling window signs, Donna Besaw seconded and motion carried. **Student of the Month** of October is Sarah Sibley of Culinary Arts and **Business of the Month** of November is F & F Contracting. The December business is no longer in existence so all businesses will be moved up one month. Donna B will contact Shari & Arne to update them. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1st. This meeting was adjourned at 8:59.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Besaw
Executive Director