

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
53 HERM TOWNE ROAD
Gouverneur, NY 13642
315 287-0331
www.gouverneurchamber.net

Agenda

Regular Meeting: September 14, 2026

Minutes of August 3, 2026 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received Elks Club September Newsletter, Main Street Designs Christmas Decoration postcard, NNY Business Newspaper, NNY Community Foundation Magazine, Downtown Decorations email of Christmas Decorations and American Express ad for credit card

Committee Reports: DBA report for July and August show new businesses: Fowler Mini Mart, NC Baits, Singhs Convenience Shop and JC Handyman in Gouverneur, Bread Shed in Edwards and A & L Resell in Rensselaer Falls. They have been sent 'welcome' letters & membership forms. New Business: Thai Street Eats joined as a new member & Emily delivered flowers

Old Business: Farmer's Market Update - Melissa

New Business: Winter Blast 2027: Meeting 9/23 @ 6:00 @ Community Ctr
Food Truck Frenzy: Discussion & Music Budget
Pumpkin Fest Planning & Workers Attending 9/19 & 9/20
Trunk or Treat: Discussion & Budget
Festival of Trees & Santa's Village – Handouts & Discussion
Business of the Month of September is Smither's Tire

Next meeting: October 5th

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce

53 Herm Towne Road

Gouverneur, New York 13642

315-287-0331

Minutes of August 3, 2026 Meeting

The August 2026 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 8:00 AM by President Brooke Plowman. Attendees were Vice President Donna Lawrence, Executive Director Donna Besaw, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Michelle Blackburn, Melissa Simone, Jessica Hentz, Kayla Ciambra, Connie Stowell, Emily Bush, Christian Gillan, Morgan Leeson Farmer's Market Manager, Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press, Dave Spilman from the Town, Mayor Ron McDougall

The minutes of the July meeting were approved by a motion from Melissa and seconded by Christian.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report showing \$77 collected in July and expenses totaled \$1,729 leaving a balance of \$18,011 in the checking account. Donna Lawrence made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Melissa seconded, the motion carried.

Correspondence: Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received an August Newsletter from the Elks Club, a catalog of Christmas Decorations and another \$20 gift card from Oriental Trading.

Committee Reports: The DBA list for June shows new businesses Oasis Signs of Hammond, Frassati Frost, Hair Studio West, Jumbo's Cantina, Gollingers Trucking and Elmdale Bait & Tackle of Gouverneur, Wegatchie Bar & Grill of Antwerp and MF Land Works of Hermon. They will be sent welcome letters soon.

Old Business: Village Wide Garage Sale Recap: No issues we are aware of and each year there seems to be a little more participation. Thursday, the two that were set up in the village park closed down around noon though.

New Business: Farmer's Market was discussed. There seems to be miscommunication about food vendors joining under the Chamber and not under the farmer's market / Gardenshare portion - and also where the food trucks can set up etc. We will do our best to appease Gardenshare and follow their suggestions. They will be invited to our November meeting (once the season has closed) and we

will discuss possible running the program ourselves or asking Gardenshare to help with the administrative end only. This is all up for discussion at the November meeting. **Winter Blast 2027** was discussed. Brooke touched on some of the highlights from their previous meeting and it was suggested that the dates be changed to include the beginning of the February school break. A full week of Winter Blast with some of the events taking place each day. The school was in attendance and said they would ask the elementary school to design a mascot for the event and the middle school to come up with a logo for us. Another meeting is scheduled for the end of September, and we currently have two surveys out that will be discussed. Brooke also noted that possibly an \$800 budget would be needed for advertising etc. and another \$500 for supplies & tokens. This will be brought up at another meeting once more info is known. **Food Truck Frenzy** was discussed. Christian has several local trucks attending from noon until just after dinner time. Shari has made a poster that will be put on our website once the fair is over and we are asked to do a social media blast to get the word out. The first 'Frenzy' is August 14th - and there is no music attending that one, but we hope to line some up for the coming months. Music was suggested from 5:30 - 7:30. Donna has obtained the permit from the village. **Pumpkin Fest** this year is September 19th and 20th. We will be needing volunteers for our table and also donations for our raffle basket. The fair association will hold a meeting once the fair is over and we can do more planning at that time. **Gouverneur Block Party** was discussed, and it was a big hit. The date being Sunday and having the 'open container' law relaxed for that time span seemed to be a big hit as well. We believe it is to be an annual event. **Festival of Trees** was discussed, and Donna & Connie have agreed to chair that event, Brook will chair the parade, and the Christmas Village will be chaired by CJ. They will set up dates and times for meetings before these events. **Business of the Month** of August is Gouverneur Hospital. They were also very helpful in giving Shari information to share on the website. Next month's meeting is September 14th (as Sept 7th is Labor Day). This meeting was adjourned at 8:58.

Respectfully submitted:



Donna Besaw, Executive Director