

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

Agenda

Regular Meeting: April 7, 2025 at Gouverneur Community Center, 8AM

Gardenshare is attending and we'll conduct their portion of the meeting first

Minutes of March 3, 2025 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received April Elks Club Newsletter, received letter from prisoner being released, received NNY Community Foundation newsletter, we received postcard from Ogdensburg Command Performances for March 19th performance, received several emails and advertisements.

Committee Reports: DBA's for February have not been received yet. When I get February and March, I'll send out membership invitations!

Old Business: Two new businesses to deliver flowers to: Rachel Raven PLLC in mini-mall and F & F Contracting on Stevens Road in Gouverneur & Silver Leaf Diner

New Business:

Christmas Parade: Main Attraction Ideas, Report from Tree Raffle Committee?

Memberships & Sponsors Received

Banquet in May Planning: Award of Merit winner, Quote for Program Printing, etc

Flag Day Parade Planning: Are we having vendors? Fees for vendors?

Directories: Have been delivered to Coughlin for Printing. Thanks Connie & CJ for contacting businesses that were late in joining

Student of Month for March is Reese Cox of Pharmacy Tech

Business of Month of April is Northern Credit Union

Next meeting: May 5th

Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce
53 Herm Towne Road, Gouverneur, New York 13642
315-287-0331

Minutes of March 3, 2025 Meeting

The March 2025 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 8:00AM by President Brooke Plowman. Attendees were President Brooke Plowman, Executive Director Donna Besaw, Directors CJ Fitzgerald, Melissa Simione, Tim Reddick, Michelle Blackburn, Dianne Cocco, and members Rachel Hunter of the Tribune Press, Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur, Mayor Ron McDougall and Joe Fitzgerald.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved by a motion from CJ and seconded by Dianne.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer's report with \$10,285 collected in dues and advertising and expenses totaled \$1,629 leaving a balance of \$28,453 in the checking account. CJ made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Melissa seconded, the motion carried.

Correspondence: Donna reported that the Chamber received a March Elks Club newsletter, Oriental Trading magazine and \$20 gift card, political letter endorsing Blake Gendebien for District 21, forwarded to government agencies & non-profits the email from Americorp offering free youth labor, sent 'thank you' notes to Dave & Patti Spilman for use & preparing the Community Center, Diane Miller for Donuts and TJ & village crew for plaque

installation and excellent job with Christmas decorations, we also received several emails and advertisements for credit cards.

Committee Reports: The DBA list for January was just received and 5 new surrounding businesses will be sent 'welcome membership' letters shortly.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Christmas Parade: We discussed what our main attraction could be this year, and one possibility was to purchase more costumes and have the middle school students wear them. Other possible suggestions to give thought to are winter games, ice sculptures and invite carolers for 30-minute stints to perform in the gazebo. Melissa will check with Don Schuessler to see if Presbyterian Church Choir may be interested, possibly the high school chorus and maybe St James carolers. The tree raffle committee has not met yet.

Memberships: Donna reported that we have 46 Bronze members at \$125 each, 5 Silver members at \$500 each, 3 Gold members at \$1,000 each and Kinney Drugs will be our Marble member again this year at \$2,500. We also have a new member from New Paltz, NY – Cornerstone Services.

Banquet Planning: The Award of Merit committee has received a few more nominees and is accepting them until March 31st. We have received our dinner quotes from the Elks Club showing all

dinners at \$20 each except prime rib was \$25. A decision will be made once we know who the Award of Merit is. We reviewed the banquet program, and Donna will send it to BOCES so they can start on layout. TJ Maxx / Marshalls: CJ hand delivered invitations to Watertown and Lowville stores asking them to open a location in Gouverneur. We received notice that the local supervisor and district manager were excited with our letter and it has gone to the main office and is in the hands of those that make the decision! Thank you, CJ! Farmer's Market /

Gardenshare: Connie, CJ and Brooke met with Erin Cuseo from Gardenshare, and they are concerned with the future of the market. A produce auction out of Brasie Corners will be held and it is understood that we may lose some vendors to that auction. A survey was prepared by Gardenshare and is being distributed. We feel an egg vendor, baker, food truck and possibly entertainment would benefit our market in Gouverneur. Aubuchon has offered use of their popcorn machine if we would like to offer free popcorn for kids. Dave offered to distribute a flyer with the Office of Aging meals that are delivered each day from the Community Center. We also discussed whether being a market and not a farmer's market associated with the NYS Dept of Ag & Markets may help with vendor attendance and lift some of the stipulations. Another option was if the Chamber kicked in 1/2 of the annual dues for the vendors. We will invite Erin to attend our next chamber meeting to get her feelings on these suggestions. The chamber received an offer to advertise in the

local food guide that Gardenshare publishes, and CJ made a motion to do the same size ad as we did last year, Michelle seconded, and motion carried.

Flag Day Parade: We discussed having the bands and parade participants enter line up from Rock Island Street and will note that in the invitations that get sent. Donna will contact the fire department to see if they plan on attending as Rensselaer Falls is also having an event that day and it was believed that the fire department may have already committed to that. Tim will contact the high school band directors to see who may be attending. Dianne noted that we ran out of flags last year to hand out, so Michelle made a motion to purchase more flags than previously purchased, Dianne seconded, and motion carried. Donna will order the flags. If we have vendors attending that day, possibly we offer they attend for free but will discuss it at an upcoming meeting. We will see about getting the vendor list from the VFW or St James as ours seems to be outdated. Short Story in Tribune Press: In the past, the Tribune Press has offered to do a short story about the business of the month and we did that a couple times but then it was discontinued. We discussed starting that again and Rachel said a short ad would also be helpful for the Tribune. It was discussed that it is difficult to get the business of the month to answer Shari's email each month asking for suggestions so it may be difficult to start the story up again. Directories: We received a quote from Coughlin Printing for 1000 directories and the price was up only slightly from last

year, so we were pleased with that, and we feel the number of directories is good also at 1000. Dave offered to hand out directories when we get them, with the meals to the disabled and elderly. Business of the Month of March is G & R Auto and Student of the Month of February is Logan Beachard of Automotive II. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 7th. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Besaw
Executive Director