

GOUVERNEUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

53 HERM TOWNE ROAD

Gouverneur, NY 13642

315 287-0331

www.gouverneurchamber.net

Agenda

Regular Meeting: November 3, 2025

Minutes of October 6, 2025 Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Correspondence: We received November Elks Club Newsletter, Northern New York Community Foundation Newsletter, received Oriental Trading magazine and several emails

Committee Reports: DBA list for September is not received yet. One new Member: Raven's Nest from last month's list

Old Business: Trunk or Treat Report: Brooke or Melissa
Farmer's Market Year End Report: Melissa

New Business: Christmas Parade: Christmas invitation letter goes out soon
Workers for Line-up needed? Connie emcee
Cookies Ordered from BOCES
Methodist Church Approved Yet?
Festival of Trees: Update on Santa's Village Progress
Number of Tree Decorating Participants
Webmaster Fees: Are We Compensating Fairly?
North Country Now & North Country This Week Adv Offer
Set Dates for 2026 Events
Small Business Saturday: Nov 29th – Advertise in Trib?
Dues and Options: Any Changes There? Window Stickers
Student of Month of October: Sarah Sibley of Culinary Arts
Business of Month of November is F & F Contracting

Next meeting: December 1st

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Minutes of October 6, 2025 Meeting

The October 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, Christian Gillan, Ray Babowicz, Tim Reddick, Michelle Blackburn, Mickael White, and members Dave Spilman from Town of Gouverneur, Mayor Ron McDougall, Joe Fitzgerald, Jessica Hentz & President Steve Jefferies of the Gouverneur Savings & Loan and Morgan Leeson – vendor from the Farmer’s Market.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved by a motion from CJ and seconded by Melissa.

Executive Director Donna Besaw gave the treasurer’s report with \$697 collected and expenses totaled \$1742 leaving a balance of \$12,699 in the checking account. Connie made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Michelle seconded; the motion carried.

Correspondence: Donna Besaw reported that the Chamber received a October Elks Club newsletter, Ogdensburg Command Performances postcard on coming attractions, we sent a letter of support for Town of Gouverneur Block Grant, received invitation to Potsdam Chamber Annual Banquet, received donation request from the Gouverneur Museum, an invitation to meet the new Bank President from the Gouv Savings & Loan and received several emails and a magazine

Committee Reports: The DBA list for August shows new businesses: Foodie Paradise, One More Chapter, Ravens Nest and Nails All Pretty of Gouverneur, Chey’s Luxe Boutique of Harrisville, KNK Cycle and Radiant Relaxation of Rensselaer Falls, Understanding Basics and Safe T House Home Inspection Service of Hammond and Wildcraft Farms of Russell. They were all sent welcome letters with membership forms. Connie & Donna L will deliver flowers to our four new members: Lindsey Mandigo, Don Peck, Railroad Market and B & N Liquidations

Old Business: Pumpkin Fest went well and had a little profit. There were approximately 35 vendors in attendance, the most ever. Talks at the Pumpkin Fest meeting discussed only having the event on Sunday next year and possibly changing the name to Harvest Festival as Lyle Hotis is undecided whether he’ll grow big pumpkins next year for the event. **Farmer’s Market Update** from Melissa is that the market was slow and Mr. Drake that sells flowers is moving away and will not be attending next year. Morgan Leeson, a vendor from the market, remarked that other markets that she attends are also down. She also commented that the market has improved since Gardenshare has taken over all area markets.

New Business: Christmas Parade: We purchased 925 cookies last year: 300 from BOCES and 125 from each of 5 bakers. It was decided that since we had so many left over, we will again get 300 from BOCES and are purchasing 125 from the 3 bakers that are also vendors in the chamber for a total of 675 cookies. CJ reported that the school does intend to have a couple of students wear the reindeer and grinch costumes at the parade and at the Festival of Trees. Diane reported that we do have horse and carriage rides again this year and Donna B will contact the Savings & Loan to see if we can again ride around their parking lot area. The parade route remains the same as in past years. **Festival of Trees:** CJ reported that the Christmas village was 80% finished and some of the ‘buildings’ were sent out to other directors to paint the ‘store

fronts'. Donna L had more invitations to hand out to other businesses that were not in the chamber as the members were already mailed invitations. They have another meeting coming up in October and will report again next month. **Trunk or Treat** was discussed, and Melissa has the candy and is all set with the theme and has workers. We can start setting up at 5:00 and the treating starts at 6:00. Ray reported that there are lots of trunks attending but did not have an exact count. **Brooke contacted Shari about adding fees to her monthly stipend** when we request more and Shari's email back was that she honestly does not know a price and sent a list of the jobs she does perform for us. In the past, she was also concerned about what will happen when she no longer does this kind of work and retires. Donna B will contact Coughlin Printing as they had an ad for website design, are Chamber members, and we'll see what they feel the cost would be. We want to be sure Shari is fairly compensated for her work and Coughlin's may be happy to give a price in the event that Shari does retire in a few years as they may be interested in her position. Connie reminded everyone that **next year will be a busy one in Gouverneur for anniversaries** – Garden Club 80th anniversary, 50th for the Museum and 25th for the Breast Cancer Walk. **Student of the Month** will resume this month, and **Business of the Month** of October is Cargill. The next meeting is scheduled for November 3rd. This meeting was adjourned at 8:44.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Besaw
Executive Director