

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Membership Meeting May 31, 2017 Wheeler Room, Memorial Hall

Roll Call. Board Members: Nathan Sponseller, Katherine Colwell, Sue Whittlesey, Robbie Winne, Bill Long.
Absent: Tracy Ihnot, Lynda Cannon. Community Members: Sara Palmer, Teresa Keller, Lisa Delany.

Call to Order. President Sponseller called the meeting of the membership and Board to order at 8:05 am.

Approval of Minutes.

Prior to the meeting, Ihnot had sent draft minutes for the April membership meeting, to the Board. Changes were suggested via email and incorporated into the version presented at the meeting. No additional changes were suggested. Whittlesey moved to accept the minutes as presented and Long seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report.

Whittlesey presented the Treasurer's Report, including account balances and income and expense items clearing accounts up until May 30th. Checking: \$3666.70; Special Projects: 8992.98. The Chamber has received all monies due from the E-waste event. Recla Metals has not submitted a bill for the dumpster delivered for the event. If the bill arrives it may result in the Chamber being in the red for the event, but probably by less than \$50. Last year no bill arrived. Winne moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Colwell seconded. All were in favor.

Communication Secretary's Report.

Colwell presented the Communication Secretary's report. She reported that later in the week she would begin the process of deleting un-renewed members from the business directory on the HotchkissChamber.com website. One of the activities she had undertaken in May was the creation of a slide show of photos taken around town during the various events happening over the dog trial weekend. She reported that this slide show was posted on the Chamber's Facebook page and subsequently shared widely on Facebook. Colwell noted she had received vendor inquiries for the 2017 November craft fair; then talked with Rhonda, and Rhonda said she will train whoever will take over for 2018. Colwell indicated that Tom Wills expressed interest in taking over, and there possibly was another person. No board member could recall who that was. Whittlesey asked if, instead of simply handing duties to Wills alone, whether we should put an announcement in the TI&L asking for interested parties to step forward. The Board agreed that opening it up might be desirable from the standpoint that having a small committee would be better for Rhonda to train than an individual.

Presentations/Introductions:

Sara Palmer & Teresa Keller, The Center for Mental Health

Sara Palmer and Teresa Keller attended the Membership meeting to discuss the activities of the Center for Mental Health. They both shared details of the organization's mission as well as discussed the new facility located adjacent to Hotchkiss High School, in the former Montessori School building.

Old Business.

Signage. Sponseller reported that Colorado Sign Studio will produce a replacement for the existing broken message sign board (coming from the Paonia direction) with a board made of a metal clad panel rather than a plastic panel. This should prevent similar future problems. The panel to be replaced was installed in 2001 or 2002. The cost will be the same as quoted for the plastic backing material.

Sheep Dog Trials. Sponseller reported that the Chamber's principal involvement with the Dog Trials this year was our normal contribution towards local promotion. In the past, the Chamber had organized downtown yard sales, however, this year the lots used previously are privately owned. Colwell reported that the time clock used at the Trials, and paid for by a \$500 Chamber donation to the Dog Trials, was a nice addition and included prominent signage indicating the donation from the Chamber. Sponseller read a "thank you" note from Gordon Hebenstreit with the Trials thanking the Chamber for its donation of the funds

for the clock. His note indicated that a mechanical failure with the clock occurred on Saturday afternoon and will be rectified before next year's Trials.

New Business.

Solarize Open House: Sponseller reported some details of the upcoming Solarize Delta County Farms initiative being undertaken by member Solar Energy International (SEI) with contract help by member Empowered Energy Systems. The open house will be held at the Hotchkiss Fire House on Tuesday, June 27 from 5:30-7. Refreshments will be provided by SEI and a presentation will also be made in the meeting room. The Fire Department (also a member) will give a brief presentation as well. The Chamber will send out invitations to members and will post an event welcome on the Town signboards.

By-Law Review: Sponseller reported that as a result of a member critique of our meeting policies earlier in the year, that he had taken time reviewing the by-laws and has drafted some suggested modifications both to the language in the section referring to meetings as well as in a couple of other places. Sponseller said he would forward his suggested changes to the Board prior to the next meeting so that a public discussion could be had. If any changes are to be made it would be by member consent at the annual meeting in November.

Downtown Walking Map: Sponseller reported that he and Colwell had discussed using the Colorado Tourism Grant match funds (approximately \$375) on the production of a walking map for Downtown Hotchkiss. The map, patterned off of a watercolor made by Patty Naft and donated to the Chamber by Debbie Pennington several years ago, would be fully re-created and show a larger footprint of the town. The listed businesses and facilities would be those deemed of interest to visitors to the Town. While we prefer to promote members, this map would include some non-members for the sake of showing a complete picture of what Hotchkiss has to offer visitors. Whittlesey motioned that the project proceed and be capped at an \$800 expenditure (including grant funds). Winne seconded. All members present voted in favor.

Dining and Lodging Guide Updates: Sponseller reported that he had updated the Hotchkiss and Crawford sections of the North Fork Dining Guide and had sent the Paonia portion on to Susan Shoemaker with the Paonia Chamber. Sponseller noted that Shoemaker hoped to have the Paonia section completed shortly. The updated listing will be provided to all Valley Chambers and will be posted on the NorthForkValley.net website. A similar update to the Lodging Guide is planned, but is not yet underway. The last update to the Lodging Guide was April 2016.

Postcards: Sponseller reported that the Chamber has two post card designs. One card with five images on the front that was produced 6-7 years ago, and the newer postcard with a train in the foreground and mountains in the background. These are sold to area businesses for re-sale. We still have a reasonable stock of the older postcards but have run out of the newer version. The members present discussed re-printing the newer version in a quantity of 500. Whittlesey motioned and Colwell seconded, with all members present voting affirmatively. Sponseller will discuss the project with Cannon – who handled the original production.

Website Calendar: Sponseller reported that he had been contacted by Gloria Crank with the North Fork Visitor's Guide. Gloria had been allowing the Chamber to link to her on-line events calendar, however, she reported that she was discontinuing this calendar as of June 1. Colwell suggested contacting Kelli Hepler with Delta County Tourism about the possibility of linking to their on-line calendar. Sponseller offered to make this contact.

Committee Reports.

Outreach Committee. In Ihnot's absence, no formal report was given. Sponseller noted that Ihnot indicated that she has put together a few more welcome bags for Town Hall and would assemble additional bags shortly.

Farm to Fiddle Report. In Cannon's absence, no formal report was given. Sponseller reported that he had submitted a Special Events Liquor License for a Kids Pasta Project fundraising dinner to be held at Shadescapes Americas location on Bridge Street on June 19th. Profits will go to the Farm to Fiddle Festival and the Re-vitalize Hotchkiss project. Farm to Fiddle paid the application fee. The Chamber is waiting on some final accompanying documentation for the application from Shadescapes.

Next Membership Meeting. Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28 at 8am in The Wheeler Room.

Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned by Sponseller at 9:20 am

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Nathan Sponseller, President