

## **WBB! MEETING MINUTES**

### **July 14, 2011**

Meeting called to order at: 7:02 pm

Present: Ray Duncan, Nancy Washer, Peter Randazzo, Harry Shifton, Joe Blosenhauer, Barbara Blosenhauer

#### **Report on Biking the Erie Canal Greeters:**

Ray Duncan reported on the recent “Biking the Erie Canal” event, where 500 bikers passed through Brockport. WBB members Harry Shifton, Alicia Fink, AlanWay, Joe and Barbara Blosenhauer, Peter Randazzo and Ray Duncan were there to greet them along with Bicycle Outfitters’ Josh McLean, his wife and mother-in-law. Jo Matela of the Red Bird Tea Shoppe provided fresh water and ice, as did Alicia and Josh, and Josh added watermelon to the reception menu.

As Harry Shifton pointed out, in the future WBB will take the lead in this event and will ask others like Bicycle Outfitters to join us, in part because most merchants do not have enough staff to do it

#### **Discussion:**

Harry Shifton: last year we had a map and coupons to hand out for Brockport business. Holley has signs along the canal that say: Welcome to Holley cookies and coffee for sale. We could do the same with maps and coupons and get merchants to sponsor things for example, people asked about drugstores & stopped at Bicycle Outfitters and thanked

Regarding Bicycle Outfitters, although Russ was there, Josh McClean was the real support behind it.

Ray Duncan: The event was great success, partial new member (at least an interested party with Josh), & Ray submitted an article to Suburban news with photos

Barb Blosenhauer: why are we NOT an official stop when Holley and Spencerport are?

Ray Duncan: has tried to get us on the map, so to speak, but with no success so far

Peter Randazzo: asked if the merchants were really interested. Dick Rizzo organized a trip last year with about 25 people & tried to get the local restaurants interested if the group ate there, but asked about separate checks for 30 people; no one agreed except 58 Main, so they ate there. Randazzo: We need to get the local restaurateurs on board.

#### **Alan Way’s email re “Bikers at Brockport Exempts”: Ray Duncan**

Harry Shifton and Barb Blosenhauer—it will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July

Harry Shifton: FANY (Five hundred miles Across New York), from North Tonawanda to Brockport the first night]; mostly camp in tents at the Exempts, which serve dinner at 5 pm, bikers start showing up around 3 p.m. Free meal if you help out.

Ray Duncan: should email the organization to look for volunteers

AlanWay reports that he has repeatedly asked for the mayor and trustees to visit them, with no success he will take care of the email.

### **Tweaking our Organizational Goals: Harry Shifton**

In addition to having our sub-committees, let's try having each person be in charge of a given project. For example: I would be in charge of greeting the July "Bike the Erie Canal" bikers on the canal ride; someone else could do Santa Train (Ray Duncan: like is Peter is project leader for trails). Harry: we definitely need signs—to visitors center, downtown merchants when the bikers come through.

#### **Discussion:**

Barb Bloshauer: we're generally working on making the canal more inviting  
Ray Duncan: we originally started with committees, but now projects sound more concrete with designated persons as project leaders.

Harry Shifton: we missed the Santa Train as a fundraiser  
Ray Duncan leads discussion on preliminary assignments:

Upshot:

Peter Randazzo: Trails

Harry Shifton: Bike the Erie Canal group

Ray Duncan: Outreach with other groups on biking and walking [and of course, running the meetings]

Joe and Barbara Bloshauer: Santa Train [Peter Randazzo: has name and phone number for a business that sells candy at discount to groups fundraising, will give it to Barb Bloshauer] NB Nancy Washer looks up minutes from October 2010 & points out that we'd decided to drop Santa Train because we don't make enough money for the effort involved. But Harry Shifton and Barb Bloshauer: it is a good fundraiser and perhaps if we were organized earlier, it would be less arduous. So Santa Train is back on the agenda.

As to other WBB events, Peter Randazzo produces an agenda from Harry Shifton's meetings. Ray Duncan starts reading the list out, some of which has faded.

Ray will send the minutes to group, instead of just having them posted on the website

### **Treasurers Report: Ray Duncan reported on WBB funds transfer to the Great Brockport Development Corporation.**

Ray reported that when he spoke to Mary Beth Lovejoy, then Villager Treasurer, he learned that the best time to make the transfer was right then. As it turned out, it took

longer to make the transfer than expected. Time to cut the check, get approval from the Village Board and a break-down of the check-cutting machine, and time to get the mayor to sign it. During this time Peter Randazzo was waiting for the transfer so he could pay the gentleman who had made Trail Signs for us.

At the time of this meeting (tonight) Kathy Halstead now has the check.

Peter Randazzo's story on paying for the trail signs: remember the trail signs? (he shows them) estimated cost \$242, half from Town of Sweden Foundation check from Foundation, but it was made out incorrectly; brought it back to Jack Milner, had check rewritten; meanwhile, our account has been closed at the Village & check still not recorded with the GBDC; meanwhile sign maker had two deaths in family, left the funerals early to make the signs; they're done, but the money is in limbo. Peter offers to write a personal check. Alicia finally gets check for the transfer, but the treasurer for GBDC is on vacation. Finally this week, she gave the check to Kathy Halstead, GBDC Treasurer. Peter he picked up the signs just before the meeting, got the sign invoice and called Halstead but she's not home, going on vacation tomorrow. Peter meanwhile still has Foundation check number two and needs to get it written a third time to GBDC but we did save \$12 in sales tax, but his real concern is his and our image with the sign maker and Sweden Foundation specifically he (and we) "seem flaky" and unreliable

Barb Blosenhauer: but it should work out now that we've switched

Ray Duncan: maybe we should have a party for all involved.

**Greater Brockport Development Corp Representative:** Joe Blosenhauer was elected as the WBB representative to the GDBC.

Ray will alert Gary Skoog

**Canal Flower Project:** Barb Blosenhauer

Has permission to plant flowers on the north side of canal

Harry Shifton: the Lions Club is also trying to get service organization to work on this but Barb is already on it; trimmed hedges, mowed the grass; still needs color; is meeting with someone from Sara's to identify appropriate plantings; perhaps a butterfly garden near the Main Street bridge; also unusual flowers with signs for Sara's; canal becomes a destination for walking; we'll need some dirt, compost; Garden club is doing the other side, around the visitor center; need some easy care plants; like creeping myrtle next to the canal; will be looking for money, but doesn't know how much

Ray Duncan: you can look at the Santa train as funding for Barb Blosenhauer's Flowers project. We need to approve this project to get the money from GBDC

Harry Shifton moves that we donate up to \$200 for the Blosenhauer Flowers project.

Peter Randazzo seconds

Vote is unanimously in favor

Peter Randazzo: offers a suggestion, look for other organizations that you could tap for money to put up signs or to beautify the canal

Ray Duncan: canals in Europe are beautifully maintained, why not here?

Taxes. [Peter explains the tax system]

### **Old Business or Miscellany:**

Peter Randazzo: the steps down from the Smith Street Bridge are a mess, who do I call?

Last time he called the Canal Corporation, and they were fixed

What about now?

Nancy Washer: they're fixing the sidewalks; maybe they'll do the steps then

Ray Duncan will call if needed

Ray Duncan: had a letter from Annette Locke, regarding sidewalks being extended to Sunflower Landing. Duncan replied that we don't really build sidewalks, that's a matter for DOT. Ms. Locke wanted to know if WBB knew of any grants regarding sidewalks

Peter Randazzo: I raised the question of sidewalks in Sweden Village; no money to put

them in when the road is redone, they can put sidewalks in then (perhaps they are required)

Harry Shifton: if the state does the road, they must put in sidewalks

Peter Randazzo: is East Ave a state road?

Harry Shifton: no, it's a county road

look at Spur's—no sidewalk, Wal-Mart forces upgrade of 31—a sidewalk may be a state requirement

Barb Blosenhauer: there's a complete lack of coordination between organizations

Peter Randazzo: does the county have a DOT? Should we call them?

Ray Duncan: I will look into it

Peter Randazzo: is the Fenton thing still on?

Ray Duncan: talked to the Fentons regarding this, he promised to talk to Mark, but now they're in Connecticut, maybe not happening; they're at least not working on it

Peter Randazzo: could someone else contact him?

Ray Duncan will contact him

Nancy Washer: how many people are we talking about?

Peter Randazzo: at least 35; auditorium, church hall would be appropriate

dinner would involve charging money

Ray Duncan: for a format I was imagining a PPT on everything we've done;

benches, curb-outs, rotary, artwork; almost \$80,000 in assets; followed by dinner, followed by Mark; plus suggestion box

Peter Randazzo: at the meeting at the school where he spoke a couple of years ago, about 50 or 60 people came

Harry Shifton: someone needs to suggest to Alicia that Arts and Aesthetics gets going with the Welcome to Brockport mural

Ray Duncan: do we want to do another fundraiser? Would like another \$1000

Peter Randazzo: but what are we going to do with it?

Harry Shifton: we need more signs along canal—temporary or permanent

Ray Duncan: Holley has a great sign along the canal; obviously we need signs

Barb Blosenhauer: we also need an event; how about a contest to explain the sculpture by the welcome center

Nancy Washer: I plan to have my students during the spring semester make podcasts to replace the walking tour of Brockport, put on our website, more later  
Idea is greeted with enthusiasm

Peter Randazzo: good to keep the meetings to about an hour, but without getting fixated on the time.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm

Next meeting August 11, 2011

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Washer