



May 21, 2019

Board of Directors

Michelle Delpha
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Kelvans

Shannon Poole
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Heritage Family CU

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*Fruition Fineries &
Raw Honey*

Jim Sabataseo
The Palms

Tammy Landon
The Gymnasium

Betsy Franzoni
*Franzoni Real Estate
Company*

Katy Mungler
Heritage Family CU & RYP

Hilary McCoy
Blush Salon

Partnership Staff
Steve Peters
Executive Director

Nikki Hindman
Events & Marketing Coordinator

Jess Novack
Streetscape Coordinator

Reps & Liaisons
Michael Gauthier
RRA

Bill Gillam
BOA

Present: Eddie Ryan, Steve Peters, Nikki Hindman, Bill Gillam, Betsy Franzoni, Rebecca Buonadonna, Tammy Landon, John Zawistoski, Michelle Delpha, Jim Sabataseo

Guests: Janelle Howard

Absent: Shannon Poole, Katy Mungler, Hilary McCoy, Mike Gauthier

President Michelle Delpha called the meeting to order at 8:02am. Michelle welcomed Janelle to the meeting. Janelle is here to observe the meeting and is considering joining the board of directors.

Approval of minutes:

A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Betsy and seconded by Jim with one correction to make. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Eddie reviewed the April treasurer's report.
- A motion to approve the report was made by Rebecca and seconded by Tammy. Motion Passed.

Committee Reports:

Streetscape: Steve Peters

- We put out a call for a new Streetscape Coordinator and we have an interview set up for this week.
- Green Up Day was at the beginning of the month. 12-15 volunteers came out to help clean up the streets.
- Jess is currently mulching around the trees and the Rec has been out mulching the bump outs. The Garden Club is planting boxes and planters in early June.
- Planters are prepped and ready to go for June 4th. Hanging baskets will be ready the first week of June, too.

Marketing: Nikki & Steve

- We've updated the website's art section to split up murals, sculptures and galleries into their own pages. We created a map of the Rutland Sculpture Trail features and other public art attractions. We also created a Rack Card for the Rutland Sculpture Trail.
- We chose to end the trash can advertising program to the public and take it over for ourselves for downtown events and marketing year-round.
- We've begun to advertise summer events on a billboard in NY and in summer guides, as well as online local calendars.

Events Committee: Nikki & Steve

- The inaugural Spring Sip + Shop was a huge success! We sold over 170 tickets and feedback was extremely positive. Business and attendees were very impressed, sales were high and many people reported they had been in new businesses. We're planning a fall one for early October.
- Friday Night Live is officially announced for July 12, 19, and 26th. We will be announcing the Street Party on August 24th next week.
- We are actively contacting vendors and sponsors.

Business Development: John & Steve P

- Five grant applications came in over the past few weeks. The committee is recommending four of the applications be awarded \$2,000 each. One application was returned for more information.
- John Z made a motion that we award Strangefellows Pub, Unlimited Potential, Speakeasy Café and True Yoga at \$2,000 each for grants were awarded. Betsy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Steve will notify the businesses and have the grant checks cut upon proof of project completion.
- The Doing Business in Downtown Workshop was held in the end of April. A few current businesses and prospective businesses shows up. We talked about the many ways we are here to support downtown businesses and the RRA talked about what they can offer businesses.
- Our next workshop will be in mid-June and will be run by the Center for Women + Enterprise with the focus on strategies for growing businesses.

Executive Director's Update: Steve

- The visit from Montpelier Alive went very well. We toured businesses, local art and attractions. They had a positive experience and asked many questions about our downtown. Hope to visit downtown Montpelier and do a similar tour with them at some point in the near future.
- The Annual Meeting is next month on Tuesday, June 4th at 8:30am at CCV Rutland.
- Nikki & Steve will be attending the Downtown Preservation Conference and the New England Creative Communities Exchange next month. Both are taking place in Montpelier.
- We did not get the transportation fund grant for the pedestrian wayfinding signage project. Steve suggests we still consider how to make that happen sooner rather than later.
- Steve attended a public meeting for the hotel project at the former Berwick site. The developers shared some preliminary plans and took public comments.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

RRA Update – No update.

BOA Update – Bill Gillam

- The sign ordinance is moving through, slowly - the next meeting is in June.
- Approved a platform fire truck.

A motion was made by John Z to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50am. Next Meeting: 6/18/19 at 8AM.