



CAB Minutes for January 8, 2013

CAB held an open meeting to encourage new ideas. Twelve businesses and friends attended. Not everyone belongs to CAB at this time. The following attended: Bob Savage- Francis Small Heritage Trust, Paul Watson-Attorney/Go Small Biz, Teresa Drown, Bangor Savings Bank, Scott Rowley-Scott Design, Lillian E. Bell- Lillian Bell Accounting, John DuBois-Sacopee Valley Eye Care, Brad Perkins- Cent.21FCR, Ethel Phinney-Cornish U.C.C., Elizabeth Libby- Uptown Boutique, Calista Cross-guest, Shannon Surette-Full Circle Artisans, Ernestine Bash-Cottage Treasures. Scott Rowley provided refreshments. The discussion opened at 7:10PM. The agenda outline was followed.

1. How can CAB improve the brochure? It was suggested that different pictures depicting more local businesses be used, possibly business signs. using the place mat idea. It was also suggested that the brochure become larger. There are budget constraints to consider. It was also suggested that to insure that the brochure is ready in a timely manner that CAB collect dues by the end of February. There will be a mailing with forms and an enclosed bill to be returned with payment. CAB is looking into PayPal as a possible way to collect dues from those who wish that method.

2. The kiosk was addressed. Rentals did not work out. People did enjoy the historical photos. Shannon suggested that CAB charge a lower fee (\$8-10 dollars) and have brochure holders available on a 1st come 1st serve basis. They would have brochure space on a monthly basis. It was also suggested that CAB add a dot," You are Here", to the map on the back of the kiosk. There will be a plaque installed with soldiers' names on the side panel of the kiosk. It has been approved by the town.

3. The web page was discussed. It was felt that there was too much scrolling necessary to look at local events. Reverse order showing most recent happenings would be helpful, since it is felt that the public should be aware of what is going on all year to promote interest in the area. There were suggestions about each business being able to update their own site. This is much too expensive at this time. Bob Savage brought to CAB's attention that nature based tourism is very popular in our area and that the web site should enhance nature based activities as another big drawing card to this area. He brought brochures from the Francis Small Heritage Trust. He emphasized birding, canoeing, hiking, etc. He asked if the town had a conservation committee and discussed Forest Works, a project partnering with 15 organizations to preserve natural resources.

4. When bringing more interest to the area several suggestions were made. The Fair Grounds is greatly underused and it is a very special addition to the town. Perhaps there could be air balloon rides, sleigh rides in winter and other winter sports such as snow mobile racing in addition to using the track for racing and other horse related activities in seasonal weather. In the past there were Pow- Wows at the Fair Grounds.

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5. Other community concerns include helping the local food bank which CAB has done on several occasions. It was suggested that CAB might help with local toy drives at Christmas by collecting toys throughout the year. It was suggested that some of them could be given out by Santa at Christmas in Cornish. *It was also suggested that an unwrapped toy be brought to the annual Christmas Party. Another thought was to have comment boxes in local stores so that the general public could add their ideas.*

6. *It was discussed that businesses particularly, those who provide services and do not have a store front might feel that they don't get enough recognition. To CAB's knowledge there has not been any difficulty in this area. It was suggested that each month CAB showcase a business on the web site. This would give the business a chance to say more about themselves and if they are offering any specials they could advertise them at this time.*

7. *Under open discussion Calista Cross asked CAB to act as the sponsor for the Veteran's Memorial Project. If CAB sponsors the fund raising a special non-profit form and fee would not be necessary. All monies for the project would be paid into CAB and placed in a separate account. It is hoped that if enough is collected there will be a brick walk around the monument with soldiers' names engraved on them. This subject will have to come before the CAB Board before any decision can be made.*

8. *The scholarship was discussed. Normally the money would be paid out at the beginning of the second semester. However, the recipient did not start school until the 2nd semester so the money will be paid in June. Plans are in the works to find a recipient for the coming year. Brad Perkins and Liz Libby are working on this project.*

8. SAVE THE DATE for the Spring Celebration. It will be held on April 28th. Watch for details.

9. *A Chairman is needed for the Flag Committee. The flags are stored for the winter. They will go up in May and a coordinator is needed. It was mentioned that some flags are dirty and cleaning will be addresses.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM. The next regular monthly CAB Meeting will be on February 12th at the U.C.C. Church at 7 PM. There will be a board meeting here at the church on the 29th of January at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernestine Bash, Secretary