Ogunquit Residents Alliance: Minutes of the General Membership Meeting, July 12, 2017

Introduction

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Peter Kahn, Acting Chairperson made introductory comments. He also welcomed Sarah, from the Chamber of Commerce
3. He also mentioned that ORA was paying $82.50 to rent the Dunaway Center and that appears to be a change in Town Policy.

Treasurer’s Report

1. Carole Aaron, Treasurer gave a report that showed revenues since inception to be $3,615 and expenses at $1,424 primarily to develop a website, mailings and other general operational costs. Balance in the checking account at June 30, 2017 is $2,191.

By-Laws

1. Jack Connerty, Steering Committee Member reviewed the bylaws:
   1. There shall be a Steering Committee of up to fifteen (15) members, composed of Officers, Past Chairperson, various committee Team Captains, and any at-large members.
   2. The Officers of the ORA shall be Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary/Communications.
   3. The Steering Committee shall direct the activities and set the policies of the organization. The Committee shall meet a minimum of five (5) times per year, and eight members the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum.
2. Jack Connerty proposed changes to the by-laws to lower the maximum number to ten (10) members with one more than 50% of the current roster constituting a quorum.
3. A vote of the membership present at the meeting was taken and the change unanimously passed.

Election of Officers for the Coming Year

1. Bobbi Treen, ORA Member conducted the election of officers by first taking nominations from the floor. The following individuals were nominated and agreed to serve:
   1. Peter Kahn, Chairperson
   2. Jack Connerty, Vice Chairperson
   3. Carol Aaron, Treasurer
   4. Fred Lynk, Secretary/Communications
2. All were elected.

Town Announcements

1. Rebecca Fox, ORA member reviewed the procedure of how to sign up for Town announcements.
2. She also presented information about various openings on Town committees and encouraged ORA members to serve. Except for four committees that by law require members be Maine residents, all other committees are available to part-time residents. It was suggested that the committee chair be contacted to determine the participation requirements (how many excused absences etc.)
3. The four town committees that require a member to be a voter in Ogunquit are Select Board, Planning Board, Budget Review Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals.
4. A PowerPoint slide showed the Town Committee opening and application forms were made available to ORA members to be completed and returned to the Town Clerk.

Review of 2016 Priorities

1. Jack Connerty reviewed these which included:
   1. Building Town Character
   2. Business Parking Passes
   3. Cost of tourism
   4. Ease Congestion
   5. Leadership, Trust and Transparency
   6. Rental Properties
   7. Senior Housing

Committees for 2017

1. Marsha Northrup went over the proposed committee structure for 2017.
   1. Finance
   2. Infrastructure (formerly congestion, parking and traffic)
   3. Natural Resources (new)
   4. Preserving Town Character
   5. Research
   6. Others t.b.d. as needed
2. Fred Lynk reviewed the proposed activities of the Finance Group
   1. Analyze town revenues and costs of tourism. Refine C.O.T. model
   2. Monitor events in Augusta. ORA supported legislation sponsored by Patty Hymanson, our State Representative that would have returned 5% of the sales tax revenue to the local municipality. That failed to clear the Taxation Committee.
   3. Monitor events in neighboring towns that impact Ogunquit or that could be considered “best practices.”
3. Fred Lynk reviewed the focus of a new Working Group called Infrastructure
   1. Determine the needs for public buildings in Ogunquit
   2. Parking needs and problems
   3. Input to the Comprehensive Plan
4. Marsha Northrup reviewed the focus of a new Committee called the Natural Resources Committee
   1. Beach beauty and maintenance
   2. Monitor updates to Beach District to maintain character
   3. Resource protection ordinances
5. Marsha Northrup reviewed the Objectives of the Preserving Town Character Committee
   1. Monitor Planning Board and Ogunquit Historic Preservation Meetings
   2. Update ORA on upcoming rebuilds and renovations
   3. Unforeseen issues that arise as the year progresses.
6. Peter Kahn reviewed the work of the Research Committee
   1. Bi-Annual voter information packets
   2. Research questions from the membership
   3. Monitor Town RFPs
7. The membership offered the following suggestions to the work of the committees:
   1. To Natural Resources add Marginal Way
   2. Tighten Ordinances
   3. Add Bathrooms at Main Beach and Footbridge to list of Building Needs being reviewed by Infrastructure
   4. Infrastructure should build on work done by Town Committee on Infrastructure that was constituted a few years ago.
8. Meeting was adjourned at about 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Lynk, Secretary