



General Membership Meeting
2/16/2011

Present: Chris Racine, Jaime Brulotte, Roger Sample, Steve Bell, Debra Laurian, Scott Carpenter, John Jonasch, Linda Monasky, Paul LaRochelle, Jessica Rothwell, Peggy Culverwell

Welcome: Roger welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2011. Guest speaker is John Jonasch from the Abenaki Boy Scout District. John explained what and how the Abenaki District assists and supports Boy Scouts; monies raised is distributed among the local clubs and the district to help boys attend camps. John provided envelopes for donations and any support is greatly appreciated.

Treasurer Report: Chris reported for Terri the balances in the accounts, the closure of passbook savings and transfer of funds to statement savings; Terri is going to complete an audit on all accounts. There is a \$50.00 discrepancy in the check book. Linda Monasky stated the \$50.00 is probably the check she has on her refrigerator door; the check is payable to the Boy Scouts –it's the donation from the ABA to the Scouts for helping out with Old Home Day; the date on the check is 9/10/10; Linda did not know who to contact at the local Scout level to get the check to them; some names were provided to her and Linda will follow through. Chris submitted the invoice for Start Logic, \$47.40; this is for the website for 2011; everyone agreed to pay the invoice. As part of the Treasurer report, Roger brought up for discussion what if any donations the ABA would make to the community, similar to what the ABA did last year. The ABA donated \$2000.00 last year to 4 organizations...\$500 each to American Legion, Child Advocacy, Community Services and the Gilman Museum. Linda questioned if precedence has been set and do we need to do it again? Can we give to other charities...possibly the BScouts; the American Legion does not need the money where others could use the money. Roger's recommendation is to support 3 organizations; Scott asked how is the ABA set for funds – is there money available? Roger's responded the Community Service can use the money now and the others can wait till later. Steve suggested we donate to the Community Service and table the others until March.

MOTION: Scot motioned the ABA donate \$500.00 to Community Services and to table for March any further donations; Paul LaRochelle 2nd the motio – no further discussion took place and the consensus of those present were all in favor.

Voting: Roger stated per the Exec Board Meeting minutes of January 19, 2011, the Executive Board will have the final voting decision on matters presented to the general membership and the Exec Board will take the vote at the same meeting (must meet Exec Board quorum). This matter passed with a majority vote 3-1. Paul asked how does this affect the quorum with the general membership and why the change. Chris stated the ABA has always delt with quorum issue regarding voting especially in December when it's time to elect new Board Members and the By-Law committee has started revisions to the By-Laws one being the quorum issue; unfortunately the Committee has not completed the revision for all the articles. To change the By-Laws requires specific process within the ABA then the By-Laws are sent to the State for approval and recordation so to avoid multiple costs the ABA will incur from the State, Chris stated it the By-Law Committee needs to complete their recommendations to the general membership therefore the current By-Laws are still in effect. Scott state the meetings need to be run using Roberts Rule of Law; Scott also explained the process required to change by-laws. Roger stated the Exec Board needs an agreement to vote to get things done. Chris stated she had issue with the Exec Board making the final decision and this discussion is the same discussion that was held last year when Ken Hoyt was Chair. Further discussion took place on what the quorum needs to be with the consensus the quorum needs to be a based on the number of people present at a meeting. Jaime suggested we attach the meeting agendas and send out via email to the membership in hopes to have more members attend meetings. Jaime is going to take on the newsblast and the plan is to have the agenda emailed with the newsblast one week before the general membership meeting. Therefore, the Exec Board needs to meet 2 weeks before the general membership meeting.

Expectations: Roger stated the need for clear expectations between Exec Board, Committees and General Membership. Roger stated we need to find out what members are expecting from the ABA. Roger stated the general membership meeting is for business not social networking. Networking nights are great and are needed however need to be a separate event.

Membership Dues: Roger reported the dues and payment schedule is the same as last year. \$50.00 per business with a 2nd business due at \$25.00 and a 3rd business at \$25.00 etc. First payment due date is 2/1/11 with a cut off of 2/28/11; second payment due date is 6/1/11 with a cut off of 6/30/11.

New Business: Chris reported she received a call from Chief of Police Ryan Heath regarding our interest in hosting or co-hosting a "Meet and Greet" night with the Police Department. Chris told Chief Heath she would bring up at the general membership meeting. Concerns and questions from the general membership included whether the Police will be in uniform? What is the ABA responsible for? How will it help the ABA? Chris responded that she did not know nor asked about uniforms; the ABA would be responsible for helping with food and publicity and this event is another venue for our members to get out and meet/greet the public as well – a great networking opportunity. The consensus of members present was that the ABA agrees to co-host the event. Chris will get follow up the Chief.

Speakers for the Year: Jaime share information on a young professional group in Laconia; this group is interested in having a social night here in Alton and would help facilitate the event. The members present agreed it's another means of networking; Jaime will follow up and report back – perhaps having a rep come to a meeting.

Winter Carnival 2011: Steve Bell reported everything is the same as last year; events and times are the same. He and Paul LaRochelle have decided not to have the fly in due to ice conditions. Winter Carnival will be held in the parking lot that would have been used for the planes. Roger is working on pond hockey event. Saturday night is the dance at the American Legion. Peggy is helping with publicity. Steve reported the winter carnival budget is \$3000.00. Linda asked for a breakdown; Steve mentioned \$500 for DJ, \$100 games, \$900 sleigh rides, \$150 insurance, \$220 porta potties, \$750 for the dance and a few other things. Banners can be made up and will be posted somewhere on the ice \$18.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Scott will make up the posters; Paul LaRochelle is going to help with getting businesses to buy their poster.

ABA Publicity: Peggy commented on the lack of information on who's doing what for the carnival. Chris asked Peggy if she would be willing to be the publicity person for the ABA and Peggy agreed. Peggy will be responsible for submitting newspaper articles and publicity matters with the ABA. Jessica suggested encouragement among businesses to spread the word and suggested each business contact their clients and other businesses they work with.

Old Home Day Parade: Roger stated the Old Home Day Committee needs to be working on the Parade for 2011 now and not wait till summer in order to get bands in etc. Chris suggested that Roger be the Chair of the parade for 2011; everyone present agreed. Jaime suggested to hold a dock dog event...aka dog jumping event off the dock in the Bay; this event is becoming very popular; Jaime will get more information and report back.

Steve motioned for adjournment 9:00 pm...no 2nd needed as all present agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary

