

# SUSTAINABLE BLACKSBURG

## Minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting

### December 3, 2014

**Time & Place:** 6:00 p.m. in Blacksburg Town Hall, lower level conference room

**Board Members Present:** Kimberley Homer, Bill Claus, Rob Lowe, Ann Raridon, Bob Schubert, Dave Roper, Jackie Harder, Carol Davis, Karen Cairns, Cathy Jacobs

**Board Members Absent:** John Randolph

**Guests:** April DeMotts, Lynn Brammer

**1. President Kimberley Homer** introduced meeting participants, including existing board members, those who will be leaving and those who have agreed to join the board beginning January, 2015.

Please keep in mind that no particular agenda was included with this meeting, therefore some of what is recorded here represents free discussion on a wide range of topics.

### **2. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Roper reported that there is currently \$1917.89 in the Sustainable Blacksburg (SB) bank account, and stated that this is minimally changed from the same time last year. SB hasn't spent much, but hasn't brought in a lot either. We need to be cautious should greater expenditures arise.
- Claus, who has been personally covering payments for SB website, requested that board take that over. Board agreed. Treasurer Roper will create a monthly reminder and make that payment.
- It was mentioned that SB pays a yearly fee for a PO Box. Question: can we use a member's address, thereby avoiding the fee? Davis volunteered her office address through the Town of Blacksburg. It was suggested that we wait a year before making a change.
- DeMotts inquired as to SB's use of Amazon Smile or Kroger Cards as fundraising tools. Upon hearing that they are not used, she volunteered to look into both options.
- Homer has created a page for important SB files; Roper will send copies of previous SB bank statements to Homer for inclusion in that page.
- Davis will maintain a record of all Sustainable Blacksburg passwords.
- Raridon mentioned importance of keeping SB financial expenditures more visible, e.g. cost of recycling batteries.

### **3. Nominations**

- Lowe and Jacobs have agreed to function as 2014 nominating committee and will put together a slate of officers which will be forwarded to board members for approval once a presidential candidate has been named. SB by-laws permit electronic voting.

- Bob Shubert, Kimberley Homer and Jackie Pontius-Harder will be leaving the board effective December 31, 2014
- Emily Schosid, April DeMotts and Lynn Brammer have agreed to join the board effective January 1, 2015.
- Officers: Roper will remain SB treasurer, Jacobs will remain secretary, Raridon agreed to accept position of vice president
- President: April DeMotts was suggested, but had left the meeting early. Homer agreed to contact her regarding her willingness to accept this position
- Davis proposed that a board term be limited to 3 years, requiring a one year break between terms. This proposal went up for a vote and was approved by the board.

#### **4. Review of Accomplishments for 2014**

Homer distributed a list of SB accomplishments for the recent year. It will be available on the SB website by the start of 2015

#### **5. Five Year Plan**

Davis proposed that SB focus on a different component of sustainability yearly for five years, repeating those topics, if successful, over the following five years. Board members were interested and an enthusiastic, free-ranging discussion followed, including comments regarding the following

- Topics might include issues such as water, energy, transportation, arts/culture or commerce
- Is SB ready for this, or should we spend another year defining the organization's mission and purpose?
- Would we be likely to forgo other significant events and topics that have been, or might be, a valuable part of our mission?
- Harder offered to create murals around a given theme
- Homer noted that such a plan would allow us to develop a community of local people who are involved in and supportive of efforts related to a given theme.
- Roper commented on the need for approval of the 5 year plan by SB's new president before we move very far. It's necessary that s/he be fully informed and invested before we make any big moves.
- The film, *Flow*, could be offered to the community
- Davis mentioned the high cost of using the Lyric for community events, including films, compared to the Alexander Black House, which could be accessed for less through the TOB.
- Other comments focused on ways to get community members involved, importance of visuals, and the need for additional funding.

#### **Meeting was ended at 7:30 pm**

Respectfully submitted by Secretary for Sustainable Blacksburg, Cathy Jacobs.