

# SUSTAINABLE BLACKSBURG

## Minutes—Board of Directors Meeting—16 JANUARY 2014

**Time & Place:** 7:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Motor Car Building

**Board Members Present:** Bill Claus, Rob Lowe, John Randolph, Kimberley Homer, Ann Raridon, Bob Schubert, John Bush, Dave Roper, Cathy Jacobs

**Board Members Absent:** Jackie Pontius

**Guests:** Carol Davis

### **Agenda Item # 1: APPROVE AGENDA**

Claus reviewed the agenda which was approved by the board.

### **Agenda Item # 2: TREASURER'S REPORT**

Roper reported that there is currently \$2,273.02 in the Sustainable Blacksburg (SB) bank account, and stated that this total is minimally changed from this time last year. He also noted that Gamma Beta Phi held a fundraiser raising \$83.00 which was donated to SB. Homer indicated that we should be sure to thank them via a note, and mention on our website. It was noted that additional donations should begin with SB board members.

Davis and Homer shared information regarding Give Big NRV, a new initiative of the Community Foundation of the NRV, along with Click and Pledge, which will make it easier, and less expensive, for small non-profit orgs to solicit donations. The board approved SB's participation in this program.

### **Agenda Item # 3: SB WEBSITE, FACEBOOK (FB), LISTSERV**

Claus requested feedback regarding the value of SB's internet presence.

- FB posts made in the early morning/evening are most likely to be viewed
- Strong on-line presence is "mandatory" for success of our organization
- Event coordinators have reported increased participation in events promoted on SB website
- Claus requested that board continue to send him announcements for local events

### **Agenda Item #4: NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT, 2014**

- Homer raised concern regarding stipulation in SB by-laws regarding number of board members (minimum 3, maximum 12), which might force SB to turn away potentially valuable members. Also, regarding requirement that 2 board members be part of each committee—again limiting outreach options, esp. with no more than 12 board members. It was agreed that by-laws need to be reviewed. Claus advised that we are not legally bound by the 12 member limit.
- Davis suggested that TOB Sustainability Manager (her current position), could be an ex-officio member of SB- without voting rights. Discussion ensued about whether a town council member should also be ex-officio, and whether we should ask Virginia Tech for a

representative from their sustainability office. It was agreed that this needed further study, and that the current expiring board terms needed to be filled.

- Davis withdrew her name from list of nominees and offered to serve in whatever capacity is most useful. This left five nominees for four board positions.
- John Randolph, to ensure that all nominees who were willing to serve would have a place on the board, gave up his seat.
- Roper motioned that we approve new board members: Kathryn Albright, Karen Cairnes, Rob Lowe, Ryan Martin, Ann Raridon; board approved unanimously.
- Roper suggested creation of a by-laws committee to address concerns related to number of board members, ex-officio positions, multiple vice presidents, etc.

#### **Agenda Item # 5: APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR 2014**

Board approved the following officers: Kimberley Homer as president, Dave Roper as treasurer, Cathy Jacobs as Secretary.

VP: Claus and Homer raised the possibility of multiple VPs to serve in various roles.

Homer suggested that Claus serve as VP for Administration for 1 year; Claus agreed.

#### **Agenda Item # 6: OPEN DISCUSSION AMONG BOARD MEMBERS**

Homer suggested that board meet monthly, sometimes with general membership.

Bush suggested that board attend presentation of storm water committee -11:00 a.m. Tuesday 1/21/14, Blacksburg Motor Company. Discussion ensued regarding SB's role. Should we advertise it? Provide support? Explain related federal and state regulations?

Led to discussion regarding creation of SB calendar of sustainability-related events. Bush suggested we use the Blacksburg Partnership's calendar. Davis said she could help with information and publicity relating to Town events.

Claus said that the BHS junior class, sponsored by chemistry teacher Katherine Davis, wishes to set up game day recycling bins in the stadium to capture plastic drink bottles from the waste stream. Cost about \$200/bin, and could be painted with SB's logo. Junior class would be responsible for emptying bins after soccer & football games. Claus will pursue this.

Bush mentioned the *Solarize Blacksburg* campaign sponsored by Community Housing Partners. Through bulk purchase, solar panels will be cheaper, and installation costs will be cheaper if we can encourage more of them. He also mentioned the *Georgetown Energy Prize*, which SB will sponsor. The *Solarize Blacksburg* campaign will also help with the *Georgetown Energy Prize* since we will measure residential and municipal utility bills for two years prior and two years after the competition begins. It was suggested that Mason Cavell speak to SB about this project

Raridon noticed that batteries are overflowing bins at the YMCA, and suggested SB assist. VT ENGAGE may have students willing to sort batteries and bring to the MRSWA.

Shubert suggested we have a portfolio of projects doable by Eagle Scouts and other focused volunteers, and a Program Committee. Also, should we consider asking the VT Sustainability Manager to join our board if we are asking the TOB sustainability manager to do so?

Davis will lead us in strategic planning, either at the next board meeting in February or at the next executive committee meeting. Some areas of strategic interest are energy, outreach and communication, activities for children, water quality, and food.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.**

**Scribe:** Cathy Jacobs, cathyj53@gmail.com