

March 21, 2020



## Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, 03/21/2020, 8:00 AM

Meeting held using Google Hangouts, Graham hosting

Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM by Ed Lentz

Board Members present:

Ed Lentz, Chair	Elizabeth Gayle
Stacia Norman, Vice-Chair	Carla Hall
Bob Thomas, Secretary	Les Hasbargen
Rick O'Keefe, Treasurer	Tom Washbon
Norm Farwell	Danielle Rhone

Other members present:

Maggie Brenner

Motion to accept minutes as transmitted by email by Tom, Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> all approved except Les who abstained as he had not had time to read them.

### **Treasurer's Report was transmitted to Board via email by Rick O'Keefe**

Notes in addition to his emailed report are that a check for \$775 will be sent to the Friends of the Otsego County Fair that is looking into work on Floral Hall. This money is from the funds that the BVA accepted on behalf of the Friends while they were applying for tax status, etc.

Income for the period was \$1,300.00

There were two donations totalling \$1,000 restricted to the Village of Morris Sesquicentennial. Elizabeth moved that the report be accepted and Danielle 2<sup>nd</sup> – unanimous approval.

### **BVA Role in COVID-19**

Our meetings will be virtual like this one instead of face to face. Graham says we need to show that we are doing things. Maggie suggested that Ed let towns and Fire Chiefs know that we are here and can help. Ed said it would be good to have the Governor's executive orders in hand to have a clearer picture. Graham says gov't employees are considered essential. Ed asked if board members have looked at the executive orders? Rick says the orders boil down to, "Stay at home unless you absolutely have to go out." Les agrees. Stacia says let people know we are here and provide links to executive orders. Carla asks if we are trying to take on the work of the churches and what other organizations are now taking such risks? This is an ongoing thing. We could each join with our churches and help out.

In summary, BVA will produce a memo and post it on FaceBook and <https://www.butternutvalleyalliance.org/> that tells people we are here and willing to help. We will create a section of our web site that lists links to information sources for COVID-19 useful to Butternut Valley residents. The memo will be written and shared by Ed and Graham prior to posting it on the sites. Use email for sharing thoughts about the email and suggesting edits.

[The memo is now at this location on the BVA dot org site - <https://www.butternutvalleyalliance.org/docs.ashx?id=612299> ]

## **2020 Budget**

On our screens Graham shared a spreadsheet showing the 2019 actual budget, the 2020, and parts of a possible 2021 budget. He also mentioned a goal of reaching 100 members in 2020.

Suggestions were to put grants in with large donor donations and have an area for member and family donations.

Quickbooks or some other accounting software should be employed to keep things straight. Currently three people can deposit checks, but they don't have a single place to document the deposit as would be provided by accounting software. We need a way to document and value in kind donations like the set up and use of tents.

The Summer Harvest Festival should try to follow the 2019 budget.

At this time for 2020 we have income of about \$39,000 vs expenses of \$30,305.

Budget discussion will be continued to have it ready for the April annual meeting. Consider it a living document.

Regarding Goals such as 100 members and donations, Stacia asked if we should be adjusting the goals due to COVID-19? Graham suggested that we keep these goals and as things change we can use the difference to document effects of COVID-19 on the BVA. Ed agrees with Graham that we should keep the budget as is.

Ed suggested that we change our fiscal year from the current Jan 1 – Dec 31 to May 1 – Apr 30. Our annual meeting is in April and this way the budget we plan and adopt will take place in the future instead of happening for over three months before it is approved.

Ed moved that we make May 1 to April 30 our fiscal year. Carla 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Executive Committee Report**

The executive committee considered the topics such as the Extinction Rebellion – to be publicized by BVA as a group or not, Newsletter release, waiting for a photograph, sesquicentennial budget, NYCONN, Otsego County Ag Committee, Soil and Water mini-grants, Scholarship applications.

Carla asked if publicizing an event can be considered endorsement and in that case does the Extinction Rebellion support BVA goals? The presentation is set for April 27.

2<sup>nd</sup> notice of dues not paid needs to be softened. Graham is looking into that.

March priorities, By laws and Watershed Management Plan – still underway but hampered by ban on face to face meetings. 2021 is still the target for completing the Watershed Management Plan.

### **Fund Raising**

Norm applied for the Community Events Grant to help with SHF. Graham will apply for the NYCONN strategic planning grant, and NYCONN Camp Finance grant.

Ed will draft a change to the section requiring approval of large donations.

Rick wondered why there would be a \$1,000 limit on unrestricted gifts? He would rather accept the check and send it back later if there was some sort of question. Graham thought we should make it a policy to review large donations.

### **Scholarship Contest**

Katelyn Robinson, a senior at Morris Central School, was the winner in a unanimous decision. She submitted a painting. The other submission was a poem. Graham shared a photo of the painting of the Morris village skyline entitled, “New Dawn for the Butternut Valley.”

Rick moved that we accept the recommendation of the Scholarship Cmte in making the award. Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion was approved unanimously.

Rick moved that each scholarship applicant’s family should be awarded a one year family membership to the BVA. Tom 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimous board approval.

Carla asked the Scholarship Cmte to plan to have Katelyn and her family attend the BVA Annual Meeting in April.

**Morris Sesquicentennial.** Stacia, Bob and Graham have attended some meetings for the event. BVA has been asked to help with dinner and dance on Saturday night June 13, 2020. We have commitments from Royce Webster for tents and food warmers, Weavers Market is willing to donate food. The whole thing might need to be moved to the fall and aligned with MCS Homecoming weekend, the date of which won’t be decided until school athletic directors meet and make their fall schedules.

It looks like we need 2 months lead time to do a good job hosting the dinner. The consensus was that the board supports the dinner when it can be held within NYS Health Department guidelines. At this time holding the Sequicentennial in June seems very unlikely.

### **Annual Meeting to be help via a virtual method.**

Put Alyx Braunius on ballot for member of board of directors.

Remember to complete your 2020 Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. You may use the link below.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/law/sexual-harassment-training.page>

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.