

Minutes

Aug 12, 2018

Board Meeting

Wellfleet Non-resident Taxpayer Association

In Attendance: Susan Reverby, Bob Sloane, Carmen Richkin, Jim Campen, Marian Palley, Karen Goldberg, Helen Birenbaum, May Ruth Seidel, Phyliss Bretholtz, Ellen Rothman, Lyra Campbell

Absent:

1. Financial Report: Lyra updated the board on statistics re: new memberships over the past year quarter, current bank balances and previous bank balances for the same date (prior year). The organization continues to grow financial resources each year.
2. Board Donations: For the 2018 year, the organization welcomes again the generous donations of our Board of Directors which for this year will be \$100.
3. Annual Board social: This year Karen has generously offered to host our annual Board social at her home on August 12, 5-7 pm
4. Giving Committee/Greeting Card campaign: Bob presented the idea of designing a greeting card to sell in Wellfleet with proceeds donated to a local interest group such as the Historical society. Discussion ensued regarding this idea and need for more exposure and fundraising by the organization to benefit the town of Wellfleet. Suggestions of local groups to benefit from fundraising efforts included the Historical Society, scholarships for Wellfleet students and the Wellfleet Housing Trust. Lyra explained that the 501 (c) 3 status may be pursuable in 2019, however Martin Richman (absent) would be best to consult with on that status. With that status the organization could be in a better position to solicit tax deductible donations to benefit the local community. Lyra discussed 'umbrella' non profit organizations that could contract with our organization in the interim such as the Provincetown Community Compact. She will reach out to Jay Critchley of the Compact.
5. Upcoming Meetings: Susan will prepare posters for the next meeting. May Ruth recommended the board consider a publicity committee.
6. Administrative Stipend: the board entered into executive session and approved an increase in the Administrative Stipend from \$4000/annum to \$5000/annum.
7. Dues: the usage of Square was briefly discussed and determined not to be a cost effective method of dues collection.
8. E-blast database: it was suggested that all selectmen and committee members on town committees be approached for inclusion in our e-blast database.
9. Town Administrator Newsletter: the Town Administrator has a monthly newsletter that can be found on the town website.
10. Misconceptions about the WNRTA: Jim was approached by a community member seeking clarification on the position of the WNRTA on certain issues and would like to try and dispel misconceptions. He also expressed a desire to see more direct impact by the organization.

The board discussed the current hot button topic of residential tax exemptions. Jim brought an informative handout prepared by the Town of Truro (attachment 1) that clearly itemizes the net benefit of the residential tax exemption and how Truro applies the exemption. Jim thoroughly explained to the Board the impact of residential tax exemptions and offered both benefits and problems with residential tax exemptions such as: shifting the tax burden does not result in new income being generated for the town; poorly targeted and may produce bad feelings. He suggested that the organization could encourage more impactful benefits to the town by way of donations or fundraisers for the Wellfleet Housing Trust.

Susan noted that the Board of Selectmen will meet September 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the COA and will discuss the residential tax exemption as required annually by law.

Ellen noted that it is not a different tax rate for residents vs non residents. It is a new tax difference based on residential status and taxable value.

The Board discussed the affordable housing crisis in Wellfleet the numerous meaningful programs run by the Wellfleet Housing Trust. Lyra shared her personal experience finding affordable housing for her family which ultimately resulted moving away from the lower Cape to accept an opportunity to purchase an affordable unit through the Housing Assistance Corporation.

11. Meeting adjourned.