



CALLICOON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

2022 Monthly Member Meeting | 11.30.22 MINUTES

Meeting date | time 11/30/2022 | 5:39 pm | Meeting location Callicoon Library

Meeting called by:	Nicole Vallance, President	Timekeeper:	n/a
Facilitator:	Nicole Vallance, President	Call to Order	5:40 pm by Nicole Vallance
Note taker:	Lily Smith, Secretary	Adjourned	6:30 pm by Nicole Vallance

Attendance: Officers: Nicole Vallance, *President*; Rosie DeCristofaro, *Vice President*; Tanyia Vannatta, *Co-treasurer*; Tom Dent, *Co-treasurer*; Lily Smith, *Secretary*. **Executive Board Members:** Gina Fenton **Guests:** Laura Moran, Zach Schleitlin, Michael Levine (guest speaker) Lillian Paditto

Agenda topic Secretary's Report | Presenter Lily Smith

- **Motion (NV) to push approval of Oct 4th and 26th meeting minutes to next month. 2nd (TV). All in favor.**

Agenda topic Treasurer's Report | Presenter Tom Dent

- As of today, CBA has \$11K in the general funds account. Operations expenses were approximately \$5K and we were able to cover it mostly due to the Country Fair raffle and Purse Bingo. These two events netted \$7,400 – which is why we're in the black.
- Dues, however, haven't lived up to previous years' revenues. Membership Dues are down to \$4,000; with 12 fewer members since last year. People have to understand that those who don't pay their dues are riding on the backs of those who do contribute.
 - When we have events, dues help with insurance, etc. Everyone benefits from events. It's unfair that others don't contribute / participate. If we didn't have the Country Fair and Purse Bingo we'd be in a hole.
- When we receive the usual dues, our operational expenses are close to running on a breakeven basis. To bring it to a greater point, if everyone paid their dues and we didn't have Country Fair and Purse Bingo revenues we'd be on a breakeven basis if we didn't have Purse Bingo and the Country Fair.
- Dickens will cost us a bit. We're not likely to have enough in the existing budget. We have reallocated an additional \$1000 to the event budget from general budget to cover event.
- **Motion to approve treasurer's report(TV), 2nd by Gina. All approved.**

Agenda topic Events | Presenter Tanyia Vannatta

- **Tree Lighting Recap | (NV)** A big thank you to all who helped out, including Zach, Gina, Tanyia and Tom D.
 - The Sullivan West HS Select Choir were wonderful! Thank you Tom Dent for providing a safe Bonfire, and Callicoon Fire Dept. for being there; and, those who put up more cones the evening before the event.
 - There were a couple of hiccups with audio, which we'll rectify for Dickens.
 - **Gina:** Suggests next time we have Xmas lighting at 5:30pm, then have carolers, etc. so as to not keep people waiting.
 - **Tom D:** there was a problem getting Santa to arrive – didn't have specific arrival time.
- **Dickens on the Delaware**
 - Horse & Buggy - Rates have gone up from \$650 to \$1200, but it was understandable as he hasn't raised fees for the Association in years. Feed and hay went up so he had no choice but to raise his fees. We have reached out to the Callicoon Farmers' Market to co-sponsor the Horse and Buggy. Their Board is deciding what kind of donation they can make to help out. (note: The Callicoon Farmers' Market has graciously contributed \$650 to co-sponsor the Horse and Buggy. Thank you!)

- Firelogs rates have gone up \$50 for 2 carved logs for a \$500 order.
- There will be a cider pop-up, carolers, fire logs, Smores, and more.
- **Tom D:** will we have signs with donors' names? (NV) Yes, I will make a sign to attach to the horse and buggy + the Sponsors will be included on ads and posters.
- **NV:** We have arranged to have Caswyn Moon and Faith Kelly handle audio at the depot stage for the day.
- Farm Arts Collective will be performing on stilts, with the hoop skirts, etc., starting at noon and parading through the hamlet, then returning to the depot for a special new performance for 10 minutes after.
- Costumes will be available at the Brewery starting on Sun. at noon. Nicole will send announcements with times.
- **Handbag Bingo** | The Event was a huge success.
 - **TV:** we had about the same number of attendees (120) as last year, and profited about \$4,200.
 - The raffle baskets were also a big success, as well as the mystery purse raffle. We received all positive feedback about the event.
 - **Gina:** suggests we follow-up with thank you notes to everyone who donated raffle baskets on social media.
 - **TV:** Tanya will send out thank you cards. Considering the overall success, Tanya suggests we have another Purse Bingo day in the year. Maybe Spring – perhaps May – pre-mothers day.
 - **NV:** Congratulations to Tanya who organized 99.9% of it. Gina, Jenana, Geina and all volunteered, too.
 - **TV:** I'm not sure tickets are needed for next time. Visitors can just Venmo and a number is automatically assigned.
- **Volunteer Thank You Event** | **NV:** We've been talking about having a volunteer appreciation event. All volunteers who have helped in the past will also be invited and it will be held at the Distillery.

Agenda topic Marketing Committee | Presenter *Nicole Valance*

- **Social Media Manager** | (NV) Francine Rambousek, (who's done volunteering with the CBA) approached us to manage CBA's social media at a substantially reduced rate. We're going to engage her on a trial basis for 3 months, starting with Dickens. She'll generate stories, visit businesses, and go way more in depth than we currently have the capacity to do. If it goes well we'll extend her contract for the rest of the year.

Agenda topic Open Business | Presenter *Various*

- **Town of Delaware Noise Ordinance** | The Town of Delaware is considering a change to the ordinance - extending it from 9pm to 10pm on Weekends during high season. This matter is under review by the Town Board, Attorney and Town Planner. It has not passed yet. They will be holding hearings in the upcoming months, but the official Public Comment has not been set as of yet. (Update: This meeting has been set for February 8th)
- **Harmon Herman Hospital Auxiliary Fundraiser** | (Lily) Barbara Donatelli, didn't get to announce her good news at last month's meeting, but she shared that they raised the needed funds to buy the ultrasound machine!
- **2023 Elections for CBA Executive Board** | (NV) End of the year: elections are coming. After tonight's meeting we'll send out a Mail Chimp announcing a 'Call for Candidates' for the 2023 Board to current Members. Once candidates have made declarations, we'll send bio summaries to all members.

Agenda topic Guest | Presenter *Michael Levine*

Michael: I've been volunteering and on boards for over 30 years. As I've shared with Tom Dent, as volunteers, we do all this work with no appreciation. Although I don't expect to be praised – it's far and few that anyone expresses any appreciation. We do things to make us feel better because we're improving things. But, that's not what is happening. There is a lot of negativity and people don't want to get involved with all this dissention. We do this for ourselves, but it's a small consolation. Callicoon needs a vision and a goal. In my eyes, Callicoon's Renaissance includes three things: The Park, Train Station and the Seminary Bell Tower. Callicoon Riverside park (old camp grounds) had a lot of plans but I don't know what is happening currently. I've gone around asking if people know about the park and no one does. I feel these things should be publicized. Second thing, the train station is smack in the middle of town. It's the jewel of the town. Right now, it looks like a parking lot. We should be sharing pictures of how elegant the station was. Surrounded

by elegant architecture. It should be restored and made to look quite beautiful. Last thing, as part of my vision: the clock tower at the job corps center. That seminary is on the list of national historic landmarks. The money spent must be mind-boggling. No one in NY has anything like that. We should have a goal to have that restored to operate again. Put all these things together and it will bring more people to visit. All events – the park, train station and clock tower – should be combined under one website.

Responses:

- **Callicoon Riverside Park:** (NV) Last I had heard, Sullivan County was to take over the Callicoon Riverside Park Project from the Trust for Public Lands, but we have not been contacted in the last year regarding the parks progress. If we find out additional information, we'd be happy to share. We had been on the Park Steering committee with the TPL but have no jurisdiction over planning at the park.
- **Callicoon Train Depot Visitor Center Project:** (Lily) Preliminary Renderings of the initial ideas were made in 2019 and have been shared publicly many times. (note: These were not final designs but only ideas to get the conversation started) and were to be a part of the Public Outreach, which the CDI has been conducting, such as the Website, (callicoondepot.org) and public outreach survey that was circulated for several months in 2021.
 - (NV) Regarding Grants, all initial paperwork for the grants have been filed, and are in different stages of processing by the various agencies. For example, we submitted the initial paperwork for the DASNY grant more than a year ago, and now are continuing on next steps to fulfill requirements from various departments. Right now we are going through the SEQR (basically making sure there are no environmental issues). Then we will move through the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) As with all public funds there is a process that we must work within. DASNY won't release funds until all steps are completed and they have approved plans. Once the build out plan is complete we'll get the funds to start. The Depot Committee and now the CDI has done extensive work and they're working with Jim Burden, who runs the architectural program at a local college.
 - (Lily) I think you would get the answers you seek if you ask to attend a CDI meeting as a guest speaker. These are all wonderful ideas, but it's not under the purview of the CBA to manage those types of projects. We're a business association here to support business members. Your points about the Depot should be made to the Depot board.
- **Seminary Clock/Bell Tower** | (NV) The Tower is part of the Job Corps Campus. The CBA has no ownership or control over it. However, the CBA has a relationship with the Job Corps and we can try to reach out to them to get you a contact to speak with.

Thank You to Michael Levine for attending.

NEXT MEETING - December 21, 2022

MEETING CLOSING - Move to Adjourn (LS) at 6:45pm, 2nd (TD). Approved Unanimously.