

**New Haven Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**6/8/23-5pm**  
**Location: Boeuf & Berger**

22 Members Present: President, Elizabeth Bennett, Secretary \*Meg Lang, Treasurer \*Debbie Winters

\*Denotes Board Member

Jen Schickler	Brian Cleveland	Randy Stolte	Josh Hoener	Kerri Otten
*Clare Swann	*Laura Kohnen	*Laura Shockley	Amanda Yates	Dave Engelbrecht
Dave Luecke	Lu Ann Luecke	Evie LaBoube	Sherry Kuschel	Christy Groppe
John Berger	Tom Reay	*Trisha Reay	Angie Scheer	

5:09 PM: President Elizabeth Bennett called the meeting to order.

- A secretary's report was not given.
- A treasurer's report was not given.

**Old Business:**

- **Miller's Landing Day-** Meg Lang (event chair) gave an update on the attendance, and what the committee is working on for next year. Plan is to focus more on a kid's festival, and not so much craft fair. Heard great reviews about the music and food.
  - Public Comment:
    - *Dave Luecke:* Decent turnout and foot traffic for a holiday weekend. Would like to have a better idea of what the committee is planning a head of time as a brick-and-mortar business downtown.
    - *John Berger:* Heard a lot of feedback about lack of advertisement and signage.
      - Meg listed all advertisement that was done: Flyers in grocery stores, gas stations, local businesses, ads in local newspaper, 2 radio spots. Ideally would like to have banners up at water tower and Roy Bail Park 2 weeks in advance.
    - General consensus was to not have it on Memorial Weekend again. Meg Lang explained that due to the 2022 cancellation, some vendors and acts were already signed up and booked for Memorial 2023, so we decided to keep it. Moving forward, the committee is looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in June.
- **Farmer's Market:** It was agreed that it was not well thought out or planned, and should have proper advertising. The committee would like to focus it more towards agricultural, and not craft. There is another one planned for the Fall, but will not take place on Labor Day weekend as previously listed.

**New Business:**

President Elizabeth explained what the BOD has been working on for the past 6 months. It was found out at the beginning of the year that we were not in good standing and dissolved by the state of MO. The BOD had to hire a lawyer to create a new 501c6 non-profit for us, along with a 501c3 management non-profit for grant money.

- **Bylaws:** The bylaws were updated and adopted in April 2023 by the BOD making the New Haven Area Chamber of Commerce a board driven entity. This means the general membership relies on the Board of Directors to make decisions on their behalf by holding monthly meetings. The general membership is to meet at least once per quarter.

- **Chamber Handbook:** The handbook is being worked on and will be released to the members in Summer 2023. It will define the roles of each member/director/officer, and explain all committees held by the Chamber.
- **Membership:**
  - Down 40 + members from 2022.
  - Possible reasons: The chamber was late getting the membership application out at the beginning of the year due to the reorganization of the non-profit (couldn't collect money)
  - The new membership guide went out only via email, and was missed by many businesses.
  - The question "What does the Chamber do for my business?" cannot be easily answered.
- **Website:** Tourism/Marketing Chair Clare Swann built the Chamber a new website that is now live. [www.nhmochamber.com](http://www.nhmochamber.com) Each Chamber business has its own page within the website, allowing it to be business focused, educational, and eventually, offer a quarterly newsletter.
- **Fall Intern:** President Elizabeth Bennett reached out to the New Haven High School for an intern to work for the Chamber and receive high school community service credit hours. The plan is for an intern to start in the fall.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Tom Reay:** People feel like they have no voice in the chamber anymore since we don't have monthly meetings.

**Dave Engelbrecht:** Members need to be able to trust the chamber, and right now, it's hard to do that. The chamber needs to focus on gaining back that trust by being honest and transparent in what it's doing.

**Clare Swann:** She asked if Chamber members could email pictures and bios of their business to [nhmochamber@gmail.com](mailto:nhmochamber@gmail.com) for their page on the website.

**Meg Lang** asked the membership what they would like to see the chamber do for them?

Answers:

1. Be the top source of info for businesses and events in town.
2. Offer opportunities for sponsorship
3. Advertising
4. Bring people to town by creating events that generate revenue for the town and create opportunities for growth.

John Berger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Christy Groppe 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Minutes Submitted by:

Secretary, Meg Lang