

PRA Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting 11/25/14

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pro Tem Dan Slowick at 7:00 p.m. Present were Dan Slowick, Al Lasota and Joe Turek. Dan Slowick reported that he would take the minutes in the absence of Nicole Parker. The other members approved.

The first order of business was to hold the annual elections. Dan Slowick nominated Al Lasota for the position of Chairman, seconded by Joe Turek. The vote was unanimous in favor following which Mr Lasota assumed Chairmanship of the Authority.

Dan Slowick nominated Joe Turek for the position of Treasurer seconded by Al Lasota. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Joe Turek nominated Dan Slowick for the position of Secretary seconded by Al Lasota. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The following items were undertaken during Old Business:

The minutes of the October minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Joe Turek seconded by Al Lasota to accept the minutes with the amendments as follows:

Under Minutes, September 10, 2014, the motion to approve was made by A. Lasota (not Davies)

Under MDOT Presentation, the meeting would be held at Union Station, Worcester, not the Steaming Tender (2 locations in the minutes)

Under the last paragraph beginning with D. Slowick explained....., line 3, John Rotman is the manager of Maple Tree Industrial Center not president (note change in the title of Maple Tree).

Line 4, spelling of Dr. Paist is incorrect.

Line 7 spelling of Quaboag is incorrect. Also the correct name of QVCDC is Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation.

Under Standing Committee, 3rd paragraph, should read "Motion to have David Swirk act as advisor for standing committee"

The report of the Treasurer was given. A motion was made by Dan Slowick seconded by Al Lasota to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the use of QuickBooks for the use of the Treasurer. Joe Turek requested that the Authority consider having an outside source convert the reports from the Accountant to QuickBooks if we are unable to get them converted by the end of the year. The members decided to take this matter under advisement and not to make any changes at the present time.

The plaque was discussed. Dan Slowick reported that he would like to order a second plaque for David Swirk and that the plaque for Blake Lamothe and Mr. Swirk would be presented at the same time. A motion was made by Dan Slowick to order the second plaque seconded by Joe Turek. The motion passed unanimously.

Dan Slowick provided an updated on the business incubator project. The classes are in their fourth week and there are currently 7 people taking them. Dan Slowick reported that he would like to see the classes run again in February with more publicity. Dan will contact Sheila Cuddy at QVDC and request that ads be run on Impact, the Palmer Journal, Springfield papers, and on WARE. A motion was made by Joe Turek seconded by Al Lasota to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

There was then a discussion on the interaction with the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce. Dan Slowick provided Chairman Lasota with a letter from The PRA to DHCD endorsing the market analysis for Three Rivers. The letter was discussed and a motion was made by Dan Slowick seconded by Joe Turek to sign the letter. The motion passed unanimously.

This was followed by a discussion on a meeting with Chief Frydryk of the Police Department to address several concerns in the Three Rivers area. It was decided that the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce and the PRA should meet at the same time with Chief Frydryk. A motion to that effect was made by Dan Slowick and seconded by Joe Turek. The motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Dan Slowick reported that he had contacted Terry Papesh to consider joining the PRA. Dan also recommended that we reach out to Bill Bromage a business owner in Three Rivers. Al Lasota said he would speak with Mr. Bromage and report back at the next meeting. A motion was made by Dan Slowick seconded by Al Lasota to continue to contact prospective new members. The motion passed unanimously.

Al Lasota then provided an update on the MDOT railroad meeting in Worcester that he attended. Mr. Lasota reported that there was more interest in an east – west line than north – south. There were three possible avenues that MDOT could take relative to the east-west line: 1) Do nothing; 2) Improve the railbed between Brimfield and Worcester; and 3) Increase the entire section of rail to allow for a higher speed. Mr. Lasota questioned the ridership that was reported by the experts from MDOT and it was learned that their ridership estimates are pure speculation and that perhaps the PRA should undertake a study of ridership along the east-west corridor. A

motion was made by Dan Slowick seconded by Joe Turek to reach out to UMass to request their assistance. The motion passed unanimously.

Dan Slowick then reported that he had spoken with Charlie Blanchard about meeting with the Town Council on December 8. A motion was made by Dan Slowick seconded by Joe Turek to meet with the Town Council to bring them up to date on the activities of the PRA. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dan Slowick seconded by Joe Turek to hold the next PRA meeting on December 3. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made at 8:10 p.m. by Joe Turek seconded by Al Lasota to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.