Good Afternoon Everyone,

This morning The Chamber of Commerce met at Coastal Enterprises.  **We now have an official chamber of commerce !**  Below is a summary of the meeting:

***Wiscasset High School Marketing :***  Laurie Smith handed out a Wiscasset High School Marketing brochure that the RSU 12 Board has developed to showcase Wiscasset High School.  Many of the member communities tuition their students to other High Schools.  The RSU is making an effort to market Wiscasset High School as the school of choice.

***Business Visitation Program:***   Laurie Smith let everyone know that the Town Planner, Jeffrey Hinderliter had begun a business visitation program.  Jeffrey is reaching out to business owners in the community to discuss their issues, plans and how the Town can support them.  If anyone would like Jeffrey to come talk to them they can reach him at townplanner@wiscasset.org

***Bylaws and Incorporation:*** Mary Ellen Barnes told the group that the organization bylaws were adopted by the steering committee last week and the final document was available at the meeting.  The incorporation papers have also been filed with the State of Maine.

***Finance and Marketing:***  Nancy Carlton reviewed the finance committee and marketing committee’s joint report.  A basic budget of approximately $14,000 per year has been established.  The revenue from the budget will come from fundraising, advertising and memberships.  The membership fees for the budget were established at $150 per business, $100 for non-profits, and $50 for individuals.   The expenses covered the marketing plans for the coming year.  These include a map of businesses in the Town, a guidebook, logo, website, kiosks and a welcome center.  It was noted that the guidebook is planned as a leaf-peeper fall project due to the lateness in the year.  The committee also reviewed what they deemed as the first blush of member benefits.  Benefits include listing on the website, opportunities for advertising, displaying of brochures at kiosks, exposure if the guidebook, pooled ads, discounted admission to business after hours, opportunities for sponsorship of business networking meetings, and connections with area businesses and community members.

***Nominating Committee:***  Les Fossel representing the nominating committee recommended the following board members for staggered terms of 1,2, and 3 years.  Kim Andersson, Bill Belmore, Pat Cloutier, Chris Dilts, Sherri Dunbar, Les Fossel, Scott Lane, Anne Leslie, Cheryl Rust, Dan Sortwell, David Stapp, Pat Stauble, Nancy Carlton and Vicki Hersom.  In total there were 15 members nominated out of a possible 19 slots.  There is a desire to have Al Cohen on the board as well as a member from Coastal Enterprises.  The remaining slots will be filled over the next few months.  The membership in attendance were in favor and the Board of Directors were elected.  As the bylaws state the Officers will be chosen from the Board members at their first meeting.

***Next Steps:***  The Board of Directors had a quick meeting after the meeting and will begin the work of a membership drive, formalizing the budget and beginning the chamber work.  It was agreed that we would have one more morning meeting before the start of the summer season so that the Board of Directors could inform us of their progress***.  Sarah’s Café generously agreed to sponsor the next meeting on Thursday, March 17th![Description: C:\Users\Town Manager\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\BCEJ2AU1\MC900319550[1].wmf]() at 7:30 am***.  See you all there!

Laurie Smith

Town Manager

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