

**GREATER FENNVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**MEETING MINUTES: August 27, 2007**

- **Call to Order:** 7:00 by President, Jim Lytle
- **Board Members Present:** Jim Lytle, Bill Busscher, Sandi Busscher, Reid Ruggles, Martha Schrock, Colleen LaShell, Tom Tucker and Theresa Wiley.

**Guests Present:** Colleen Rae and Larry of The Local Observer and Jackie Ladewin of the Fennville Public Library.

- **Pledge of Allegiance recited**
- **Approval of Minutes:** Posted on web site. Correction made by Theresa Wiley to add webmaster Al LaShells' name to website committee member list. Motion to approve: Theresa Wiley, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Martha Schrock and approved by all.
- **Modifications to Agenda:** Suggestion made by Reid Ruggles to have meeting minutes emailed directly to board members. This item was agreed upon by all in attendance.
- **\*\*Public Comments:** - -.
- **Financial Report:** Treasurer, Elice Menear was absent but turned in a report to President, Jim Lytle listing a current balance of \$5,579.72 in the general budget, \$867.80 in the scholarship fund and \$1,888.00 in the concert fund.
- **Networking Meeting:** A joint networking meeting of board members from Fennville Area and other neighboring area Chambers of Commerce/Business Associations will take place on Sept. 27 at the Fennville Public Library lower level meeting room. Approximate expenses will be a \$25 building usage fee to the library and beverages. Martha Schrock and Sandi Busscher volunteered to bake cookies for this event.
- **Membership:** Chairman, Theresa Wiley presented a written report listing a total of 76 current paid memberships. Members are posted on the chamber website. The written report detailed membership dues, policies and membership benefits as stated on the Chambers' brochure.
- **Scholarship:** Sandi Busscher reported extra candies left over from the concert concessions and requested using these at the Goose Festival Chamber booth to help raise money for the scholarship fund. Donations will be accepted at the booth for the candy. Sandi also presented an idea of "Fennville Area Spirit" items to be created and sold at chamber member businesses as a possible idea to raise additional monies for the scholarship fund. The board set a goal to raise a minimum of \$1500 to be given out to 3 students in \$500 increments for Fennville 2008 graduates.

- **Entertainment:** Chairman, Martha Schrock reported that a professional Business Mastery seminar will be hosted by the Greater Fennville Area Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 8 and held in the lower level of the Fennville Public Library. Neighboring business organization members will be invited to this seminar. Cost will be \$5 to direct members of the Fennville Chamber and \$10 to all others. An approximate budget of \$100 was requested. Motion for approval made by Sandi Busscher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Tucker and approved by all. Martha Schrock and Sandi Busscher offered to make cookies for this event.

**Fall event:** Chair Martha Schrock reported that on Sunday, October 7 a networking/social event will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the journey café for Chamber members. This will be a pizza and salad buffet with light beverages. A cash bar is available. Jim Lytle, also on the board of Fennville Recycling Enterprises will present a short program on business recycling assisted by Ray Diffendorfer. Motion made by Jim Lytle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martha Schrock and approved by all to invite Collen and Larry of The Local Observer to this event.

Martha Schrock also made note that she has secured a reservation to hold our annual dinner banquet/meeting at FennValley Winery in January.

- **Welcome Wagon:** Jime Lytle reported to committee chair Reid Ruggles that a delivery needs to be set up in the next week or so. Bill Busscher also mentioned of a possible second newcomer. Sandi Busscher offered to take stock of the items currently available for the welcome baskets.
- **Website:** Chairman, Theresa Wiley presented a written report consisting of committee members, brief history of new site, asked for any suggestions to be emailed to her and that she will be contacting web committee members regarding holding a meeting in September. It was discussed that the Chamber by-laws need to be posted on our website again in PDF file.
- **PR:** Jim Lytle reported that he has been working on/with the Fennville DDA (which he is also a board member) to produce a brochure on the Fennville area that the Chamber can collaborate on and/or assist with. They (DDA) will be meeting with 2 possible brochure creators in the next few weeks. Jim Lytle will keep the Chamber posted of the efforts of this project.  
PR Chairman Reid Ruggles made mention that the new Lexington Square Senior Center in Fennville has meeting facilities available. Colleen LaShell also mentioned that there are meeting rooms available to rent at the Fennville Public School Athletic Center.
- **Goose Festival Update:** Reid Ruggles (also serving on the Goose Festival board) reported that a car show will be held at the High School parking lot as part of the new Goose Festival. Steve Valkema of Fennville Tire Center and Greg Crippen will be in charge of this exciting event. Jim Lytle and Tom Tucker (both also Goose Festival board members) reported that plans for this years festival are going well and requested all chamber members to “get the word out” that there will be a Goose Festival this

year.

- **Chamber Annual Awards:** President, Jim Lytle requested that all board members and general members to start thinking about ideas for award recipients, criteria for recipients, board officers and recruitment of new board members.
- **\*\*Public Comments:** - -.
- **Adjournment of Regular Meeting made by president, Jim Lytle at 8:10 p.m.**
- **8:11 p.m. Closed Executive Board Meeting called by president, Jim Lytle**
- **Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Reid Ruggles, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Tucker at 8:50 p.m.
- **NEXT MEETING: Mon., September 24, 2007 at Fennville City Hall**