

SIMSBURY TOURISM COMMITTEE
“Heritage, Charm, Adventure”
Simsbury Historical Society- Ellsworth Center
Tues. Jan. 16, 2018 7:00 pm Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Dominique Avery, Joe Buda, Paulette Clark, Mike Long, Diane Phillips, Charmaine Seavy, Rick Wagner, Eric Wellman, Patti Smith Jacobus and David Westcott

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.
2. Minutes from December meeting were reviewed. After one correction in the spelling of Patti Jacobus' name, minutes were approved unanimously.
3. In welcoming 1st Selectman Eric Wellman, Chair Joe Buda outlined the committee's mission of encouraging Simsbury economic development and requested more direction from the town for its work. Eric reported that he has chosen to be the Board of Selectmen liaison to the committee well as to the new Economic Development Commission once it is formed because he believes that tourism will be a major part of the town's Strategic Plan for Economic Development which the new town manager will play a role in creating.
4. Patti Smith Jacobus representing Simsbury Free Bike and the Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee reported on: the importance of bikes to town tourism and how much biking has grown (it's the largest regional bike share in the state). She asked the committee to help get more bike riders to come to Simsbury by contacting national bike tours; helping to expand the number of quality bike racks in town; encouraging businesses to become more bike friendly; and taking part in this May's Bike Month activities.
5. Old Business and Working Team Updates:
A Team Events Update: Joe Buda reported that the Simsbury Holiday Market & Village was once again successful. Locating the Market at

Andy's was very popular. The SHS has not yet decided whether to do it again next year. It will decide after a formal evaluation.

Team B & C :There were no reports from Team B Visitors Center, or Team C Recognition. Team D Gov't: was addressed by our guests earlier. Team E Special Projects: There was no report on progress to make Simsbury a hub for Aer Lingus, but it was mentioned that Air Norwegian was cancelling its flights to Bradley. Once again, the idea of the necessity for a campground to attract bikers and hikers was brought up.

6. New Business: Joe said that work has begun on planning for Simsbury's celebration of the 350th Anniversary of its founding and outlined plans for the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce of Seward Johnson sculpture exhibit from May 15 to Sept. 15. Joe also mentioned work that continues to go on behind the scenes on efforts to migrate the cancelled cell phone tour to a local website.

7. Quick Updates. Joe mentioned that Dominique Avery hosted three members of the Historical Society to review Simsbury's 300th Anniversary event to begin a town wide discussion of the upcoming 2020 event.

8. Adjournment was at 8:30. Next meeting is Tues. Feb.20 at 7:00pm at the Simsbury Historical Society's Ellsworth Center

Submitted by Dominique Avery