

SIMSBURY TOURISM COMMITTEE  
"Heritage, Charm, Adventure"  
Eno Memorial Hall- North Conference Room  
Mon. March 19, 2018 7:00 pm Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Dominique Avery, Joe Buda, Pat Carbone, Joyce Howard, Sheree Landerman Diane Phillips, Charmaine Seavy and Rick Wagner

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.
2. **Minutes** from January meeting were approved .
3. New member Sheree Landerman was welcomed and old members introduced themselves.

**4. Update on Chamber's Seward Johnson Sculpture Exhibition:**

Joe gave an update on plans which include building a website for the exhibit and the formal kicks off Fri. May 18 Ribbon Cutting/ Champagne breakfast at Ana's Kitchen(formerly Peaberry's) and SHS Garden Party on June 22.

**5. Old Business and Working Team Updates:**

**Team A Events Updates:** a.) Dominique asked for volunteers for the April 28 Volunteer Expo which we are co-sponsoring. Pat, Joe, Dominique and Joyce ( if she is in town) said they'd be there. b.) Diane Phillips volunteered to help with flower planting for the Ann Marie Potter Bike Sculpture Memorial Flower Basket as our May Bike Month event . We have not yet heard back from Vicente Garcia and do not have a date yet c.) Update on the State Open House Day on June 9. So far the only group that has signed up is the Bridge of Flowers. Committee said they wanted to Open Visitors Center as we did last year, plus we reviewed last year's groups and agreed to contact them to let them know. Bill Selig who participated last year is closing his Gallery and combining it with his store. Dominique also announced she has arranged with the Simsbury Library and the State Tourism Website for another workshop for local organizations to learn how to use the State's Tourism Website. It will be Tuesday, May 1 at 2:30 in the library's Technology Learning Center. There are 20 computer desks. People can sign up on library website.

**Team B Outreach:** Lori was not there, but there was some discussion about an illustrated map made by Abby, a young woman who is a designer & illustrator studying at Pratt Institute in NYC who was feeling homesick and created this illustrated map of Simsbury highlighting some of the

special things that this town has to offer which she'd like to sell. D will contact SHS Gift shop about possible sale there.

**Team C Recognition:** No discussion. Maybe next year we'll consider making local awards as well as state awards.

**Team D Gov't:** Sheree talked about the need for a focus on Tariffville. Committee expressed its pleasure having once again someone from Tariffville on the committee,

**Team E Special Projects:** Joe updated Jan Losee's efforts to make Simsbury a Hub location for Aer Lingus European travelers. Dominique said she got enthusiastic support for the camping idea from some bike people and said perhaps its time to set a meeting with all interested parties to get the idea off the ground.

## **5. New Business:**

a. Joe passed out brainstorming forms for members to list their specific ideas for Tourism priorities to pass on to the town to encourage economic development. Then members shared ideas which included improved cell phone reception in downtown, need for additional and more cohesive signage, welcoming flower baskets around town, need for bathrooms and food stops off our bike paths, making Heublein Tower more accessible to Simsbury to encourage their visitors to come to town, urge Land Trust to encourage out-of-towners to access their trails etc. Joe will compile the list to further discuss next meeting.

b. Discussed progress on planning for Simsbury's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be a planning and brainstorming meeting at the Simsbury Historical Society on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm

**6. Adjournment was at 8:35.** Next meeting is Monday. April 16 at 7:00pm at The Simsbury Free Library.

Submitted by Dominique Avery