



Main Street Young Harris Board Meeting Minutes 1/ 16/ 2024

Present: Dana Dockery, Dana Cable, Rosemary Royston MS Director

Absent: Michelle Barnard, David Sanford, Jess Harris

Visitor: Charlie McClure

Main Street Director Rosemary Royston opened meeting at 6:30 pm. A quorum was not present due to the death of one member (John Luc) over the holiday, and the absence of three other members. However, Director Royston stated the board needed to move forward in discussion regardless to create Mission and Vision Statements that can later be officially approved once a full board is in place.

A moment of silence was held to recognize the passing of former member John Luc, representative from Brasstown Valley Resort.

Old Business:

Minutes from the 10/17/2023 were reviewed. One error was noted in that Michelle Barnard was listed as both present and absent. The error was amended to show she had notified the Director that she would be absent.

Regarding the Bylaws that are already drafted and had been reviewed by the Board in October, Director Royston proposed to send them to the City Council for February meeting to receive feedback. After that, any suggestions from them could be incorporated, and the Bylaws then presented to a full board for discussion and a vote.

New Business:

Director Royston asked board members if the third Tuesday, 6:30 pm, City Hall, was still a good time for monthly meetings, and opened the discussion for any alternate dates or times. Board members agreed that the third Tuesday at 6:30 pm works well. Therefore, meetings will remain on third Tuesday, 6:30 pm, City Hall for 2024.

In regard to membership, those present had no objections to the two applicants, Aaron Lovitz and Gwen Betti, being MS board members. Director Royston will provide their names and information to the YH City Council for the February meeting.

Director Royston shared that she and board member Dana Cable had recently met with representatives from the Enotah Garden Club, who wish to partner with MS for a plant and art sale, downtown, on April 21. Members agreed that this was a good idea and doable, since the vendor layout can be similar to Porchfest that occurred in the fall. Royston will convey the agreement to partner in this event to the garden club.

The board members and director reviewed the proposed Mission Statement that had been drafted from input of board members. After discussing the draft, an edit was made so that the proposed Mission Statement, which will be presented to a full board at a future meeting, reads as follows: "The Mission of Main Street Young Harris is to bring life and unity to the community and downtown through economic development, design, and promotion, while preserving the area's beauty and history."

As for the draft of the Vision Statement, board members felt that the draft was too business focused. Therefore, the group spent some time answering the question: what are the features of an ideal downtown YH? The following list was created and will be used to draft a new Vision Statement for discussion:

- *Community focused
- *Gathering spaces for people to connect
- *Opportunities for people who would not normally connect to do so
- *Multigenerational connectedness
- *Preservation of the Valley's natural beauty
- *Places to sit
- *A REASON to stop and visit downtown
- *Celebration of art, music, and literature of the area
- *Economic stability year round
- *Preservation and promotion of the area's history

The final bullet point on preservation and promotion of the area's history led to the need to collect material (stories, photos, newspaper postings, etc.) of Young Harris. It was decided that once the full board is in place, a sub-committee is needed to spear up this initiative.

Main Street Director Rosemary Royston encouraged all Main Street board members to attend the Jan 30th master planning meetings at either 11:30 am or 5:30 pm, schedule allowing. She asked members to continue to be on the lookout for additional board members. Next big ticket items include MS 101 training for each member, officer elections, selecting a transformation strategy, and having a planning retreat.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 pm, City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.