

**Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc.**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council  
175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI  
Monday, September 21, 2020  
Via Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:**

Dave Richards, Chairman  
Judy Fischbach, Treasurer  
Dr. Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane, Secretary

**Absent:**

Barry Mechanic, Vice Chairman  
Thomas Kravitz  
Michael Gwynn  
Louis Yip  
Kathy Roberts  
Mark Brodeur

**Also Attending:**

Dr. Robert Billington, President, BVTC  
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations, BVTC  
Attorney Keith Fayon  
Joan Loos, BVTC Staff

There being no quorum, Chairman Richards opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. for general discussion. The planned agenda was not followed.

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Attorney Keith Fayon was asked to give an update on the Marina Flannery Case. Keith detailed his work and investigation he has done to date. He sent an interview questionnaire to the BVTC and has spoken with Captain Matt Prendergast, Donna Kaehler and Mike Martin so far. He shared what his anticipated response will be to the Human Rights Commission and will discuss details with Bob Billington, Natalie Carter and Dave Richards before the response is sent to the investigator at the Human Rights Commission. Keith also indicated what he feels the process of the case will be in the future. Board members present were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. All present felt comfortable with how Attorney Fayon has handled the case as well as his plans for proceeding.

Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane asked about the status of the Woonsocket Depot. Bob shared that Vinnie Bono has been evicted, but that eviction is a two-part process. Although he has been evicted, he has not vacated the Depot yet. The BVTC has been advised by RIDOT to continue working with Vinnie Bono as we wish.

In response to a question from Judy about the audit, Natalie stated that she is setting up a meeting with Patti Cerilli soon.

Bob reported briefly on the following:

Our annual golf tournament went well and was well-attended.

We have created a Halloween event on the Explorer called "Swamp Scare", a 20-minute excursion along the river from Central Falls to Cumberland. He asked those present to help promote the event.

Regarding Polar Express, Bob has been talking to the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad about renting the train at a lower rate this season so that we may scale down the event to comply with social distancing and RI Department of Health regulations. Discussions are continuing. A decision on doing Polar Express will be made soon.

The meeting ended at 12:55 p.m. with a plan to call another Board of Directors meeting soon.

Joan Loos, BVTC Staff



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