

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council
175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI
Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 12 noon
Via Zoom

Attendees:

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

Absent:

Barry Mechanic, Vice Chairman
Kathy Roberts
Lee Esckilsen
Louis Yip
Mark Brodeur

Also Attending:

Dr. Robert Billington, President, BVTC
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations, BVTC
Stephanie Medeiros, CPA, Mullen, Scorpio & Cerilli
Joan Loos, BVTC Staff

As a quorum was not met, the Board meeting was not called to order. However, the following information was discussed by those present:

Bob and Natalie updated the Board members about the SVOG (Shuttered Venue Operators Grant) we received for Polar Express. The funds have enabled us to bring in new equipment, a large tent and upgraded lighting. Bob explained that Polar Express has sold out this year, that passengers are feeling safe with all of our Covid precautions in place. We have added a Prologue performance this year with students from Mt. St. Charles Academy. We have added a Covid/Health officer this year, using health care career students from the Davies School. Other young people participating this year are trainmen from the Cumberland school system and performers/elves at the North Pole from The Dance Step dance studio.

Bob invited any Board members to take a ride on the Polar Express this weekend. We will find seats or add portable seats if necessary.

Stephanie Medeiros, CPA from Mullen, Scorpio & Cerilli presented the results of the June 30, 2020 audit. She stated that we received a qualified opinion with the exception that we were not able to do a physical inventory because of Covid. Stephanie stated this should not negatively affect us. Stephanie explained the notes contained in the audit report. One correction to be made concerned the PPP loan being from Navigant Credit Union, not Bank of Rhode Island. Stephanie stated that she will make that correction today.

With the Executive Committee being present at the meeting, the audit report, once the above correction is made, was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

Bob updated those present on the status of our move from the Visitor Center building in Pawtucket to the third floor of the Central Falls Landing building. He felt that the Visitor Center will remain in the building at 175 Main Street, Pawtucket for one or two more years, staffed by two people. By February we will vacate our current offices and move to Central Falls. The Certificate of Occupancy has been received for the first and second floors. We will not be able to receive a Certificate of Occupancy for our space on the third floor until we have internet and phones and furniture has been placed. Some of our things have been moved to the third floor at this time.

Natalie and Bob announced that the BVTC has been awarded \$42,000 from the Champlin Foundation for science equipment for our River Classroom.

Bob announced that he won the top prize of \$10,000 in the Charity Tournament at Twin River recently. The funds will go into our Environmental Heritage Fund administered by the Rhode Island Foundation.

Ocean State Charities has given us \$10,000 for 5 new work stations.

The Board of Directors meeting will be rescheduled in January.

Joan Loos, BVTC Staff



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