

**Town of Sturbridge
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2013**

Attendees: Kevin Smith (KS), Patti Affenito (PA), Bob Jepson (BJ), Laurance Morrison (LM), Kathy Neal (KN), Mike Serio @ 8:35 PM (MS), Arnold Wilson (AW)

Guests: Carol Childress, Sturbridge Tourist Association; Jessica MacDonald, Sturbridge Tourist Association; Tom Creamer, Sturbridge Tourist Association & Selectmen; Raoul Ricard, Tina Anderson

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

LM made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 4, 2013 as written; seconded by PA. So voted, 5 – 0 – 1.

KN made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2013 as written; seconded by LM. So voted, 5 – 0 – 1.

LM made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 16, 2013 as written; seconded by BJ. So voted, 5 – 0 – 1.

The Finance Committee met with the members of the Sturbridge Tourist Association to discuss Article 15 – Sturbridge Tourist Association. Jessica MacDonald informed the Finance Committee that:

- \$20,000 from the FY13 budget will be encumbered for the anniversary celebration
- the STA website is being converted to Wordpress to make updates easier and reduce costs
- STA pays for roughly 50% of the costs in running the Welcome Information Center which is open every day but Sunday
- Focus is on advertising to daytrippers
- STA is also developing destination visioning

During the discussion, members of the STA acknowledged the difficulty of sustaining ideas, ensuring continuity of funding and consistency in approach and actions.

For Article 15 – Sturbridge Tourist Association, LM made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by AW. So voted, 5 – 0 – 1.

Tom Creamer addressed the Finance Committee to explain the Board of Selectmen's approach to warrant articles in order to address issues at the Fire Department.

Raoul Ricard and Tina Anderson discussed Article 24 – Mountainbrook Road Betterment Project with the Committee. They explained erosion is undermining the three roads that are part of the

project (Mountainbrook, Beach, Long). Of the 40 households that would be effected, 70% of them have signed a notice of intent with the Town.

For Article 24 – Mountainbrook Road Betterment Project, AW made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by KS. So voted, 7 – 0.

Motion made to adjourn at 8:43 PM by LM; seconded by BJ. So voted, 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Smith