

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

Monthly membership meeting

September 7, 2011 – 7:30 a.m. Hotchkiss Public Library

Present: President Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank,) Vice-President - Bill Long (TDS Telecom), Corresponding Secretary - Katherine Colwell (Rivendell Retreat), Recording Sec. – Tom Wills (Wills Gallery and Used Books), Katie Gnauck (Hotchkiss Trading Company), Sue Whittlesey (High Wire Ranch), Lou Ann McCay (Pour Farm Ceramics) became a new member after meeting adjournment.

Chamber President, Nathan Sponseller, called the meeting to order.

Katie moved that the minutes of the August meeting as written by Tom, and proofed and e-mailed out by Katherine, were approved. The minutes are now available on the Hotchkiss Chamber website (www.hotchkisschamber.com).

In Rhonda's absence no Treasurer's report was presented.

Corresponding Secretary Katherine Colwell reported that there were 79 members of the Chamber. Katherine continues to learn more about website maintenance. She and Nathan have recently met with representatives of the Paonia Chamber in regards to the joint aspects of the northforkvalley.net website, which includes Hotchkiss and Paonia sections as well as a link to the Crawford Chamber's site. The Hotchkiss and Paonia Chambers will continue work on the areas of mutual agreement but there still needs to be a written agreement of some kind spelling out specifics of website management.

Tom gave another update on the Chamber's Hotchkiss Business Survey process. The survey done to supply business owners' input in the Town's Master Plan revision process has been tabulated and sent to the Town. Tom also shared a copy of a second survey made available by the Town itself to Town Hall visitors. Results of that survey were roughly similar with the exception of a higher level of dissatisfaction with mosquito control. **The Town will hold a second Master Plan meeting on September 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall. Chamber members are encouraged to attend.**

Nathan brought up the issue of revising the current Chamber by-laws. Nathan, Tom and Katherine have been reviewing, commenting and making suggestions on the current document, which is posted on the Chamber website. The plan is to finalize a new proposed version and send it out with membership renewals for a vote at the end of the year.

Tom passed on an idea from the Hotchkiss Downtown Merchants' Committee to do "Hotchkiss Dollars" as a buy local program over the holidays. The concept was that the Chamber would put \$200 or more into subsidizing the "dollars" at a 20% discount. There was some discussion, but no motion was made. Many seemed more in favor of the idea

of a local's discount card. No action was taken on that idea either, but it was recommended the DMC flesh out specifics on how either idea would work.

The Hotchkiss Chamber's annual Arts Crafts and Business Fair will be only one day after all: Saturday November 19th 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. An eight-foot table and space is only \$25 for the day. Call Rhonda at the Library (872-4153) to rent a space. Table rental proceeds benefit Memorial Hall's various projects.

Discussion continued on the planning for a Joint North Fork Chambers' - Hotchkiss Business Symposium to be held on Saturday, October 22, 8:30 a.m. to 1 pm. at Memorial Hall. The general theme will be **Local Business Meets Local Government** with the idea to have local and county government representatives attend and have two-way discussion of their various Master Plan update processes (Hotchkiss, Paonia and Delta County), with the focus on Valley business. The plans will all address growth and other issues, including downtown development and business over the next decade. Oxbow Mining, who will figure strongly in the next ten years, will also be invited to give a presentation to the gathering of valley chamber members to wrap up the morning. Nathan will draft invitation letters to the entities and Tom will come up with an agenda framework involving a panel discussion followed by individual municipal area breakout group discussions.

Announcements: There will be a Business After Hours at the office of North Fork Family Dentistry beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 15th. Meet Dr. Matt's new dentist partner, Dr. Andrew Scott.

The next Chamber officers and members meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the basement of the Hotchkiss Library.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills - Recording Secretary.