

## Minutes of the Visitor Services Board ~January 4, 2000

The following minutes are available on-line as a service and are not the official record due to changes in formatting for the Internet. The minutes may have attachments that are not included here in this format. The official, complete paper copy can be viewed during regular office hours, Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Office of the Town Clerk, 260 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657.

The Visitor Services Board held their first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday January 4, 2000 in the Judge Welsh Room at Provincetown Town Hall.

Those present were: Steve Melemed, Bob Tosner, Dana Hendricksen, Barbara Rushmore, Kay Halle, Michelle Jarusiewicz, Patricia Fitzpatrick. Absent: Francis Santos and Hunter O'Hanian. Also present were members of the community, Provincetown Chamber of Commerce and PBG

Steve Melemed called the meeting to order at 11:10. AM. The minutes of November 2, 1999 meeting were read. Dana Hendrickson moved to accept the minutes as read and Bob Tosner seconded the motion. Minutes of the last VSB December 3, 1999 meeting were read by Steve Melemed and accepted.

Bob Tosner was excused from the December 3, 1999 VSB meeting, due to a death in his family.

**UPDATE:** Pat Fitzpatrick, Tourism Director, gave the board an up date on her trips to Plymouth, England for the "Sister Cities " project, and her trip to the {ABA} American Bus Association Marketplace, in Birmingham, Alabama to promote motor coach travel. Fitzpatrick also presented the Board with copies of co-op ads, currently running to promote tourism to Provincetown. Group Tour Magazine, New England Get Away Guide, MOTT Travel guide and Coastal Living Magazine. Fitzpatrick announced that the VSB will be represented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay & Lesbian entertainment trade show in NYC at the Jacob Javitz Center February 26&27, 2000. Volunteers are needed to man the booth.

**Old Business:** Barbara Rushmore gave the Board a report on the Transportation Task Force. The task force is researching ways to provide affordable shuttle transportation for residents and tourist, during the season. The task force is working with the National Seashore. Research and development of eight propane vehicles, funded in part by the Federal Government, has been their primary focus. Discussion included: concerns that offering shuttle transportation doesn't address the passenger car and parking situation in town, Other concerns, regarding the shuttles, were: The routes the shuttle will take, the number of passengers it can transport and the money/grants that will be available and the VSB's participation in funding the project. Staff has allocated \$60,000 per year as a contribution towards the shuttle. The task force would like to work with Truro to develop a program that works for both communities (motels, hotels and campgrounds in Truro would benefit by using the shuttle into Provincetown.

Bob Tosner questioned if the shuttle was being designed to service the "day tripper" or the overnight guest." Our funding comes the rooms tax, and therefore our concerns need to be for the overnight guests who contribute to that fund."

Ben Pierson, from the National Seashore, has applied for an \$800,000 grant to help fund the purchase of 8 vehicles to be used as apart of the shuttle service. Taxicab owners have also been attending the shuttle meetings. Bob Tosner asked Barbara Rushmore to be representing the VSB at the meetings and making sure that the overnight guests interests are represented.

-2- VSB Minutes January 4, 2000

**New Business** Steve Melemed asked for input on Grant applications and monies available for spring of 2000. Michelle informed the VSB that there is no money in the fund to apply to spring 2000 events. A conversation regarding calendar year vs. fiscal year money ensued Ken Leanard, the financial officer for the Town of Provincetown, addressed the group. The Chairman asked about the "cycle" of money for spring events. Kay Halle asked Mr. Leanard of the article could be more flexible to allow for funding of events before the fiscal year money becomes available.

A member of the audience, Roger Chavett, asked to speak. Permission was granted. Mr. Chavett suggested that the timing between the switches from calendar year to fiscal year has created a "Black Hole" .We need to create a "transition" to eliminate the problem.

Mr. Leanard said he would meet with the Tourism Director and the VSB Chair to discuss the matter. Additional money (\$31,000) is available to the VSB for FY2001 because the tourism season was stronger than predicted.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25.

The next meeting of the VSB will be held on January 11, 2000.

Respectfully submitted by

Patricia Fitzpatrick

Tourism Director