

Minutes of Meeting - February 17, 2011

The February 17, 2011 meeting of the Greater Searcy County Chamber of Commerce was called to order at noon by President Clint Freeman (Freeman Chiropractic). Present at the meeting were Bobbi Rudd (Marshall Screen Printing), Brenda Pierce (Radio Shack), Richard Groves, Charles Baker (Poison Ivy Soap), Nancy Jones (Medic Pharmacy and Grandmas House), Dorothy Hare (Operation Kindness), Jeff Stansbery (Ozark Heritage Art Center), Mary Kirk (North Central Career Center), Vice President and Webmaster Lee Walsh (Ozark Mountain Log Homes, Ozark Hardwood Flooring, and Ozark Custom Country Homes), Ben Treat and Secretary Merrily Hartwig.

There was no treasurer's report in the absence of our treasurer.

Bobbi Rudd brought up the problem of the locals taking their business outside the County. Suggestions were made regarding how we could keep business at home. Ben Treat suggested that one day a week the businesses stay open later to allow those who work during the day to shop local. Other suggestions were made by all members present. Bobbi Rudd will work on a structure to promote local businesses and present it at the March meeting.

Merrily Hartwig reported on the progress of the Buffalo River Spring Fling; Lee Walsh gave an update on the new website for the Chamber; and Charles Baker spoke on the need for industry in Searcy County and where we might go to get the money.

Charles Baker presented a brief talk about wind turbines and the dangers thereof. Some of the dangers included adverse health effects, which included low-frequency sound, sleep disturbance, headaches, tinnitus, vertigo, sensations of spinning, nausea, vision problems, rapid heart rate, irritability, problems with concentration and memory, panic episodes, etc. Other problems not health related are disruption of television, satellite, cell phones, microwaves and other electronic devices including pacemakers. He also gave examples of the effect these turbines have on wildlife and livestock. As to the economic value of the turbines, he said that there are generally no new jobs for the county as the turbine companies bring their own crews and without federal funding, the turbines are not profitable.

The meeting adjourned at 1 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,
Merrily Hartwig, Secretary