

NY Coalition for Open Government 3-10-22 Meeting Minutes on Zoom

Present; Casey Jones, Chuck Porter, Darlene Bolsover-new from NT, Mike Franklin, Michelle A., Sonia Dusza, Janet Vito, Lawrence Vito, Joe Kissel, Mary Lou Cebula, John Fisher, Paul Wolf, Alberta Roman-Recorder.

Meeting called to order by Paul Wolf, President at 6:31 pm. COG is a not for profit organization with a 12 member Board where anyone may speak. Only Board members may vote and make motions.

Meeting Minutes from Feb., 10, 2022; Minutes are included in meeting packet with 2 members having issues of accessing. Motion to accept minutes made by Maria Tisby and second by Michelle A. with motion being carried.

Treasurer's Report; Presently there are 68 members from 23 Counties in NYS, with Dutchess Co. being newest. Deposit of 100 dollars making \$3,733.12 total. Agenda had dollar figure wrong and Treasurer had correct. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Alberta Roman and seconded by Michelle A. with motion being carried.

Calendar 2022; Every meeting calender (this meeting packet in pages 6-7) included so new members can see plan for the year. Our meetings are second Thurs of each month(exception next mo...April 7) at 6:30 pm and both Committees(OML...March 17 @ 4pm &FOIL March 24 @1pm) meet also on Thurs each month.

Open Meetings Law Committee; Report by Chair Joe Kissel; see attached meeting minutes with agenda.

Update; Gov. candidates will be invited to appear at end April annual meeting. 55 people responded to poll for attending this forum.

Ranking; Priorities listed in minutes attached with regard to actions/enforcement issues.

Freedom of Information Committee; Report by Maria Tisby chair; see attached meeting minutes. Issue of creating a new website discussed . The Committee recommends that the Board:

- 1) table moving forward with vendor 360 PSG for new website;
- 2) ask 360PSG to provide a new estimate for creating a new website based on Wordpress;
- 3) provide info regarding our existing site to people on committee with website experience

Motion made by Maria Tisby and seconded by Joe Kissel regarding the three items stated above, was unanimously approved.

Membership; Dues 20 dollars a year running March to March. Janet Vito Treasurer is receiving dues at.... 8617 Bonview Terrace, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

Letters; Two sent out recently as follows.

Wappinger; Town regarding posting meeting documents and executive session.

NF City Council/Mayor; To Mayor Restaino regarding special sessions set by Mayor, where he sets agenda which cannot be changed public comments are not allowed. Niagara- Gazette published an editorial in support of Council doing something (passing local law or changing City charter) about this issue.

New Business; Many members are frustrated with non-compliance with FOIL and OML. There are 900 towns in NYS. We will select 20(volunteers to do random survey) of them for report to public. We are working toward a statement of what we are for as a Coalition so public is clear. Idea of calling actions as “compliance” as opposed to “enforcement” and assisting municipalities with education and support was discussed.

Maria raised the Issue of Gov Hercul using government plane for personal business/campaigning discussed may be a tangent from open government issues.

Paul wrote and sent out op-ed regarding enforcement/compliance during sunshine week. Public relations committee/campaign was bought up as possible further discussion in next meeting’s agenda.

Next Meeting; Meeting which is one week earlier than usual is on April 7th at 6:30 pm on zoom. OML Committee meeting is on March 17th at 4pm and FOIL Committee meeting is on March 24 at 1 pm. Motion to end meeting made by Michelle A. and seconded by Alberta Roman. Meeting ended at 8:02 pm.