

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Food Arts and Related Industries Committee**  
**21 April 2008**

**Members Present:** Mary Ann Beinecke, Jen Merritt (Co-Chair), Bill Blodgett (Co-Chair), Bob Butler (Secretary), Sara Hotchkiss, and Charlotte Davenhill. **Also present:** Amy Winston, Advisor; Bob Spear, Advisor; David Atwater, Advisor; and Abden Simmons, Head of the Shellfish Committee and member of the Waldoboro Planning Board.

Jen Merritt, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes of the 14 April Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the 14 April 2008 meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed by majority vote.

Alternative Visions – Telephone Conference with SeaReach

Jen Merritt passed out a draft of vision alternatives SeaReach had sent to her just prior to the meeting. Committee members reviewed the draft and discussed the scenarios with Sandy Campbell and Carol Coutrier by telephone conference. It was Carol's first introduction to the committee. She has been the President of the Massachusetts Specialty Food Association for the past seven years and operates her own consulting firm, Launching Pad, which facilitates the formation of new businesses and assists existing companies to conceptualize and move in new directions.

A copy of the Draft Waldoboro Vision Alternatives is attached to these minutes. The committee and SeaReach spent much of their time discussing Vision No. 3, which calls for the creation of a Food and Culinary Arts Institute with ties to destination tourism, focusing on education, shared kitchen use, and specialty food manufacturing. Key concerns were to determine local economic sectors, which could find synergy with the food arts institute. A restaurant and, possibly, a conference center and/or "coalition" of supporting B & B accommodations were mentioned, as well as local seasonal attractions: Fall foliage seekers, summer hikers and river explorers/kayakers/canoers, winter skiers, bird watchers, history buffs, artists, poets and authors, and alternative medicine practitioners. Waldoboro offers something for all and good food is a necessary support and/or adjunct. Some committee members expressed concern that Waldoboro's quiet and peaceful character not be lost to exuberant commercial development. Others noted that a balance is needed between busy summers (Waldoboro as tourist destination) and quieter winters (Waldoboro as a place to study and learn culinary arts.) More discussion and fleshing out of these ideas is required.

The discussion with Sandy and Carol also focused on providing resources, which might assist with completion of the feasibility study. The list is responsive to specific sectors SeaReach

suggested in an e-mail sent to committee members earlier in the day. The purpose is to develop a group from among these sectors, which can serve as advisors to SeaReach.

#### Local Farmers:

Beth's Farm, Union  
Rosie and Bill Guest, Jefferson  
Jan and Rob Goranson, Dresden  
Cunningham's Dairy Farm, Waldoboro  
Bonnie and Brian Robinson, Organic produce and poultry, Friendship  
Brady Hatch  
JoAnne and Wayne Meyers, Beau Chemin Farm, Waldoboro  
Brown and Clark (??)  
The operators of the farmers markets in Boothbay and Damariscotta (identify)  
Rising Tide Market, Damariscotta, a purchaser of products—including specialty foods--  
from local farms  
Moose Crossing Garden Center, Waldoboro (family-owned plant nursery)

#### Local Value-Added Specialty Food Producers

Cunningham's Dairy Farm  
Morning Dew Farm  
Hatchet Cove Farm  
Jim Amaral, Borealis Bread, Waldoboro  
Suzanne Goldenson (Tomatoes)  
Russell Libby  
Marge Lupien (Goats cheese), Waldoboro  
Appleton Creamery  
State of Maine Cheese, Rockport  
Safe Harbor Confections, Waldoboro

#### Local Blueberry Producers

Scott's Blueberries (and Christmas Trees), Waldoboro  
Susan Morris, Waldoboro  
Red Barn Farm  
Cleary Hill Blueberry farmers (???)

#### Local Chefs/Restauranteurs/Stores

Aimee Pearson – Little Sunshine Market, Waldoboro  
Bramhall's Lobster Wharf, Friendship  
Captain's Fresh Idea, Waldoboro (advertises that it serves local seafood)  
Debbie of Moody's Diner  
Delano's Seafood, Waldoboro  
Hannaford's, Waldoboro

In Good Company in Rockland  
Jeff Hurd, Narrow's Tavern, Waldoboro  
Laura Cabot, former owner of Pine Tree Restaurant in Waldoboro, presently a caterer  
Melissa Kelly Primo's in Rockland,  
McKean & Charles (wine/specialty foods), Waldoboro  
Rick and Jean at Damariscotta River Grill in Damariscotta  
Sumner Richards, Fernald's, Waldoboro  
Sarah's, Wiscasset  
Yellow Front, Damariscotta  
Terry Altiero, Café Miranda in Rockland  
Bramhall's Lobster Wharf, Friendship

#### Local Fisherman/clammer/Aquaculturalist

Abden Simmons, Chairman of the Shellfish Committee in Waldoboro  
Chris Davies, who raises oysters in Damariscotta River and lives in Waldoboro  
Kazuo Maeda, Benny's Waldoboro (ships premium quality local seafood to Japan)

#### Local Bed & Breakfast Owner

Blue Sky Inn, Waldoboro  
Outsider's Inn, Friendship  
Roaring Lion Bed and Breakfast (Bill Brannigan), Waldoboro  
Reinhardt B & B in Wiscasset  
Susan Hemmel\_ The Pine Cone  
Domenica, Le Vatout, Waldoboro

Sara suggested the Committee invite all of the foregoing entities and individuals as well as Waldoboro residents to a Monday night meeting to present the ideas and receive feedback. Amy thought we might do so after establishing a definite framework for the meeting to avoid confusion. At some point during SeaReach's research such a meeting could be very helpful.

SeaReach and the Committee agreed to publish press releases every couple of weeks and to invite reporters to its meetings to help generate interest and more public participation in the feasibility study process.

#### Charlotte's Report

Upon completion of the conference with SeaReach, the advisors left the meeting. Bill Blodgett had left earlier in the evening.

The five remaining committee members (Mary Ann Beineke, Bob Butler, Charlotte Davenhill, Sara Hotchkiss, and Jen Merritt), constituting a quorum, took up the matter of Charlotte's report.

Charlotte moved that her report in its entirety be included in the 31 March Minutes.

MAB objected, arguing that Charlotte's report was inaccurate and inappropriate. She pointed out that the Work Shop held on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> was, in effect, a convening of executive session, and consequently, the matters discussed were private and should not be made public. She argued further that if a Waldoboro citizen had a complaint there was a procedure for submitting and investigating such complaints, established when the Food Arts Committee, itself was formed and authorized by the Select Board.

Jen pointed out – and all committee members but MAB agreed – that Work Shop meetings are open to the public and that the Work Shop held on 26 March was never intended as a convening of Executive Session.

As for the complaint process, one committee member, Charlotte Davenhill, had received a phone call complaint from Mary Ellen Crowley on behalf of George Hackmeister. Charlotte had reported that complaint to the Town Manager by phone and had also presented her report concerning events at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Work Shop to the Committee, which she felt were related to the complaint and wanted to have included in the March 31<sup>st</sup> minutes.

During the discussion of these issues Mary Ann Beinecke stated she had 7 points to note for inclusion in the minutes regarding Charlotte's letter. Four committee members (Bob Butler, Sara Hotchkiss, Jenn Merritt, and Charlotte Davenhill) suggested that Mary Ann write them in a report parallel to that of Charlotte. Mary Ann Beinecke then left the meeting.

At the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee had agreed to table further discussion of the 31 March minutes pending Jen Merritt's obtaining testimony from a private citizen. At the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting Jen reported that Mr. Hackmeister had received a call on 27 March, the day after the Committee held its Work Shop. Jen's report was based upon information provided by Mary Ellen Crowley, who had spoken with Mr. Hackmeister.

On April 20, 2008, Mary Ellen Crowley e-mailed Charlotte Davenhill, Jen Merritt and Bob Butler, confirming, in writing, the information she had previously provided to Jen Merritt. The Committee voted unanimously to include Mary Ellen Crowley's e-mail in these minutes. The text of that e-mail follows:

QUOTE:

**From:** travelmaryellen@verizon.net  
**Subject: Re: Minutes - 14 April**  
**Date:** April 20, 2008 12:12:31 PM EDT  
**To:** charlotte@cdavenhill.com, jlmerritt@earthlink.net,  
bob@jocobacompany.com

"...a male person, whose name he could not remember, \*/said that they were going to be performing the study/\*... " (Jen)

"\*/I got a grant from the Town of Waldoboro to do a feasibility study.../\*." (Charlotte)

If memory serves me correctly, I said to Jen that Bobo (George Hackmeister) said to me that the guy said to him that he had been "\*/awarded the contract for the culinary arts study/\*", but I can not swear that those were my exact words.

The gist seems the same to me in all three statements.

I do know that I questioned Bobo about whether or not the person he spoke to said he actually had been awarded the contract and Bobo said yes. This caused me to call Charlotte to confirm that the study had been awarded because I hadn't heard that it had been and she informed me that the committee had pretty much decided on who would be getting it, but that it had not been finalized.

As to the date of the conversation I had with Bobo, Jen figured that out when I told her I contacted Charlotte right after I spoke to Bobo and that, as I recalled, Bobo had either got a call from the guy that day or the night before. Charlotte might remember this as I'm sure I told her when Bobo spoke to the guy.

It's obvious to me that someone from the committee spilled the beans before they were supposed to have been ladled out. It's also obvious that the committee tried to ignore this violation of protocol. This is a perfect example of how cover-ups and excuses only make matters worse and how it's best to admit right away when a mistake has been made.

Best Regards ~ Mary Ellen Crowley

UNQUOTE

A discussion ensued concerning the appropriateness of including Charlotte's motion to include her report in the March 31, 2008 minutes.

Charlotte had already moved and Sara seconded to incorporate Charlotte's report in its entirety into the March 31 2008 minutes. The Committee voted and the motion failed.

Bob Butler then made a motion to incorporate Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5,6, and 7 in the 31 March 2008 Minutes. Jen seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Bob Butler explained that Paragraph 3 of Charlotte's report was not about the 26 March Work Shop; the rest of the report was.

The committee voted unanimously to pass the motion.

### Adjournment

Jen asked if there was any other business. There not being any, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the Committee unanimously agreed to do so at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert L. Butler  
Secretary