



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday May 17, 2022
Newport Vineyards
909 E. Main Road
Middletown, RI
3:30pm**

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm by T.R. McGrath, Board Chair

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Pamela Baldwin, Karen Binder, Geremie Callaghan, Keith Chouinard, Gillian Friedman Fox, Christine Francis, Matt Gray, Charlie Holder, Rocky Kempenaar, TR McGrath, Tom McNiff, Andrew Moore, John Nunes, Sean O'Connor, Bob Rulli, Dennis Turano, Missy Varao

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Ann Hof

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Tim Walsh, Anna Duffy, Alyson Adkins, Kathryn Farrington, Francesca Donlan

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Chuck Nardozza, Managing Sales Director of AAA Northeast

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

T.R. McGrath introduced John Nunes, Owner, Vintner, Brew master of Newport Vineyards and Taproot Brewing. John reviewed for the board news and events at Newport Vineyards. John offered the board a tour of the facility after the meeting.

II. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for April 26th were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Andrew Moore and seconded by Matt Gray. The motion passed unanimously

III. AAA TRAVEL FORECAST:

Chuck Nardozza from AAA Northeast presented the board with projections for Memorial Day and Summer travel trends in our area as well as national and international forecasts. He reviewed the many programs launched by AAA and now available as travel incentives to their millions of members.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for April was presented by Geremie Callaghan:
For February bed taxes, the City of Newport was up +52% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +18% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up +22% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of April was up +33% as compared to budget, with total revenue up +40% as compared to budget. Total expenses were overbudget by +11%. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Matt Gray and seconded by Charlie Holder. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Evan updated the Board on the following:

- Evan thanked all the board members for volunteering to serve on the board of directors.
- A survey will be sent out on the best time for all to meet for meetings going forward. Geremie Callaghan is stepping down as restaurant representative and our treasurer. TR McGrath's term on the board is expiring. We will need nominations for both Treasurer and Chair.
- The proposed FY2023 budget will need to be ratified at our June meeting. Discussion followed.

VI. STAFF/REGIONAL UPDATES:

- Kathryn Farrington, VP of Marketing, updated the Board as follows:
 - The first Marketing Meeting in 26 months is at 11am tomorrow at Oceancliff for our industry partners.
 - Our new Communications Coordinator, Stephen Mulholland begins on May 23rd.
- Tim Walsh, VP of Sales, updated the Board as follows:
 - The Sales department is very busy with corporate, motor coaches and cruise inquiries all coming back at full steam.
 - We are interviewing for a Destination Expert in the Sales Dept.
- The following board members gave updates about their respective townships: Karen Binder - Bristol, Christine Francis – Tiverton, Dennis Turano & Rocky Kempenaar – Middletown, Sean O'Connor, Charlie Holder and Gillian Friedman Fox – Newport, Andrew Moore – Little Compton, Matt Gray – Portsmouth, Tom McNiff – Jamestown, Bob Rulli – Warren

- VII. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Chouinard and seconded by Rocky Kempenaar. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:38pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held:
Tuesday, June 21, 2022
Sailing Hall of Fame
365 Thames St.
Newport, RI
8:30am**