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Purpose of BABA: To engage, promote and support the Baroda area businesses and community.

#### Tuesday May 10th, 2022 Monthly Meeting

- Location: Chill Hill Winery, 8986 First Street, Baroda,
- Meeting began at 12:01 PM.

#### Notes:

1. In attendance: Board Members – Steve Salisbury (President), Greta Hurst (VP), Kristin Webber (Trustee, Membership Committee Chair), Bill Hurst (Secretary, Acting Treasurer).  
Guests – Mel Tollas (Village Trustee), Members: Jerry Sarno (Home Watch of SW Michigan), Ashley Nitz (Chill Hill)

#### Agenda:

1. Ashley Nitz, Chill Hill part owner and host of our meeting, described how Chill Hill will have been open 3 years on June 4<sup>th</sup>, is doing well, despite the seasonality of the business. Cider is selling especially well; Chill Hill offers a full range of ciders (9 or 10), and many wines made from the Nitz's 400 acres of grapes, making the Nitz's one of the largest grape growers east of the Rockies. Dan takes special pride and focuses on producing high quality wines from 36 varieties of grapes. This year, 4 reds are being produced, all estate (Nitz) grown, St Julien does the processing. As is the case with many wineries, sweet wines sell best – sparkling resberry and peach being particularly popular. Chill Hill is planning and being to build a building on their country property to process and host a tasting room, subject to Oronoko regulations for entertaining. Chill Hill charges \$10 for a flight of 5 wines for tasting, which Ashley indicated is one of the best values around. Two food trucks are planning for this year to accompany outdoor entertainment. It is easy to park and hit other local wineries. Chelsea Nitz does the marketing.
2. April minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Admin Items
  - a. Treasurer's Report – Approved unanimously.
  - b. Motion from Greta to move the November BABA meeting from election day
  - c. We moved the November BABA meeting, which was originally slated for Election Day (Nov 8<sup>th</sup>). Greta made motion, unanimously passed to move it to 11/15/22 at 12 noon.
  - d. August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, originally to be at Julie Nitz's, will be moved as Julie now has a conflict with the 12 noon time, and we discussed we, the Board, would like to keep the 12 noon time consistently. Greta will tell Julie the August meeting will move, and Greta will scout out a new location.
  - e. Greta suggested we ask Golden Muse if BABA can hold and sponsor a ribbon cutting for their opening. Steve will ask Analisa if this can occur.
  - f. June BABA meeting is at Worthenbury, (home of Salisbury Consulting).
  - g. July meeting – Greta is scouting out location.



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4. Review status/next steps on each 2022 outcome:
- a. Membership (Kristin) –
    - i. 1 new May member, Advanced Heating and Cooling, due to Kristin. We are up to 57 members.
  - b. Events -
    - i. Barrels, Bottles and Brews event, sponsored by BABA, is confirmed for 4 – 7PM at Public House.
      - 1. Jerry Sarno will solicit existing registered past attendees (1000 on mailing list) to attend.
      - 2. The club has a Facebook page, and will promote it there and on LinkedIn.
      - 3. We agreed that Jerry will inform the Board when the event description is posted, so Greta can share the event on BABA’s Facebook page.
      - 4. Jerry will let us know who is registered.
      - 5. Steve will confirm that we have a reserved area in the restaurant where the attendees can gather.
    - ii. Regarding a potential event with a Cornerstone Alliance speaker on “Attracting and Retaining your Workforce”, Kristin has not heard anything new from Cornerstone. This is on the back-burner for now.
    - iii. Kristin followed up with Brett of Makers Trail; Greta mentioned that she believes Makers Trail is a one time event on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Kristin is exploring co-sponsorship opportunities.
    - iv. Steve has explored SCORE event, and we agreed to proceed with initial SCORE event on 6/21 or 6/23 (preferred as Baroda planning commission event is on 6/21), pending confirmation from SCORE speaker. Steve will confirm final arrangements. We discussed location of event; Chill Hill amenable as location and has some food options; we will confirm based on final date.
    - v. Steve is having coffee with Lakeshore Rotary officer, and will discuss potential for joint event.
  - c. Broadband (Steve)
    - i. Per Steve, Oronoko has funding approved to do fiber optic to connect everyone. There is an individual house fee of \$500 to connect and cost of \$100/month.
    - ii. Bainbridge has their project approval. \$750K. All rural. Steve to investigate the parameters, as this would seem to have relevance for Baroda, and sounds very inexpensive.
    - iii. Baroda Township – Due to Steve’s efforts, 14 letters requesting Broadband from citizens were received by the Township; Steve thinks numbers sent are higher. Steve to talk to Supervisor Dennis Krotzer about current status; Comcast is coming back with proposal.



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1. BABA Board discussed that a logical next step for Dennis is to talk to Midwest to understand the real costs.

d. Organization

- i. Bylaw review meeting for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. To be based upon Bill's proposed draft of updated main bylaws (sent to Board this AM), plus a proposed revised bylaws appendix to be sent out by Bill later this week.
- ii. We discussed the need for more people to help with association tasks; agreed that we should do some outreach based on niche needs like errands or specific tasks of help, rather than just portfolio assumption, which some folks cannot do, even if they want to help in a smaller way.
- iii. Still an outstanding portfolio position.

e. Community Liaison

- i. Greta and Mel partnered to research planters in April and a few days ago at the May Village meeting, Mel prepared a presentation of their findings. Three options were presented to the Village.

Mel and Greta reported that the Village would not commit to maintenance of planters, replacing plants that died, etc. Mel and Greta indicated to the Village that BABA likely to have businesses commit to half of the 18 planters, if the Village could commit to ownership of the plants. It is not clear if the Village will fix the irrigation system, and without it, it is not sustainable to maintain these plants. Given the late timing this year, and lack of firm commitment by the Village to support the Project through maintenance, the Board agreed to table the item, effectively removing it from consideration in 2022 for BABA.

Next steps – offline conversation within BABA about Village planters, and BABA will talk to businesses to assess interest in Village street beautification – to see how pressing an issue it is for them.

- ii. Music in Park – maybe a potential for BABA partnership, on a clearly defined basis of a maximum of \$600 for one event in June, July or August. Bill will draft a letter for Steve to send to Baroda Village with BaBa's offer.

5. We adjourned at 1:38 PM.