

Bridgewater Area Chamber of Commerce

Board meeting Minutes

July 06 2018

In Attendance: Jim Brown, Blair Lipsett, Bill McInnis, Reid Whynot, Lee Wallet, Brooke Nodding, Joel Holland, Andrew Mutch, Jeff Langille, Debra Porter

Regrets: Shawn Patterson, Emily MacKay, Melissa Prime

Call to Order

Additions to Agenda

State of Chamber (Jim)

Value Proposition (Jim)

Correspondence: None

Chamber Chat will resume with our September meeting

Minutes from June 8th 2018 meeting were accepted as distributed. Motion by Andrew and second by Reid.

Business Arising:

AGM update (Dan)

The AGM was a success and the bill for meal and room rental has been paid to Osprey. Bot the Key Note Speaker and the student participant were very well received. One comment regarding the lack of space for members to market their companies was mentioned but the layout of the room would not allow this. The issues of RSVP persons that did not show up for event was discussed. We did have to pay for the extra melas as the final numbers were submitted the day before the event. Recommendations were made to either charge those that have confirmed and do not show or anyone registering after the deadline would not have breakfast included. We would also add to the confirmation of the rsvp that bills would be sent if they do not attend.

Computer update (Dan)

The new laptop for the Chamber has been purchased from Staples and is a great new addition.

Old Business

SSREN Update: No further activity rom the REN and the word on the street indicates that their doors will close on September 30th

Municipal Affairs Committee: Will look at establishing this committee but under the title of Advocacy. Members of this committee will be appointed and Terms of Reference will be developed.

Directors Business Affiliation: We will promote the diversity of our Directors both on our website and through Social Media. The recommendation was made by Dan to have each Director submit a short BIO on themselves along with a photo of their choice prior to the next Board meeting. These would be shared online.

Community Transit Pilot: The proposed trial for the bus service from the South Shore to Halifax was discussed. The idea to co ordinate with the Halifax Chamber for some joint promotion to encourage passengers to visit the south shore from Halifax and not just make it a one-way venture. Dan will reach out to Halifax Chamber. This would be viewed favorably by the merchants on the South Shore.

Bursaries; Both PVEC and NGRHS students received bursaries for the Chamber. Michelin had a representative on hand at PVEC to present as they were the co sponsors. Kent Atchinson from BMO presented at NGRHS. Suggestion for photos on a go forward basis to help promote our involvement.

Financial Update: Report was circulated. Lee explained budget items and comparative view. Membership renewals will now be entered into the fiscal year which will give a clearer image of where we stand on that line. Report was accepted as issued

Committee Reports:

Events : Debra presented an update on both the Opening Doors for Everyone session to take place on August 21st and the Toonie Toss campaign. Debra also suggested a Fun Day for the membership. Discussion was perhaps a BBQ at the end of September behind the DesBrisay Museum for members and families. We will reach out to membership to gauge interest. Additional members of this committee will be Shawn Patterson and Jeff Langille. Next meeting of Events Committee will be July 11 at 10am in the Chronicle Herald office in the Bridgewater Mall.

Membership: Membership is growing and more outreach is required

Nominating: No report

Budget: Budget has now been added to operating software will allow tracking of the results.

Chamber Mandate: Blair reported that he is working on a glitch in the software that was purchased and is working on a test message to go out to membership before attempting a launch with a formal request for a response. Brooke explained the Mandate process to new Directors. Jim also spoke of the importance of the personal touch to our members. This would involve the existing membership list to be divided equally between the directors and they would own these members and be responsible to contact them by phone to gauge how we are doing and what we can do better to serve them. Perhaps a more in-depth Member Loyalty program for members could be proposed. Brain

storming session was proposed to review what we are doing and how can we do better. Recommendation of a Town Hall meeting format to be held in January 2019 with the membership to review.

New Business:

Chamber office relocation: Dan reported that he has been checking on various options for the new location. The GM at the LCLC has extended an opportunity for the Chamber to set up operations at their location for August and September as a temporary location. The cost of this would be \$200 per month. Ken Anthony (landlord of 373 King Street) has indicated that we may be able to either move back to that location or there is a location on King Street that he is developing. There was also a recommendation regarding the actual need for a physical local. The suggestion was made about Dan working from home which is also a very viable option and also cost saving for the Chamber. Dan will report back at August meeting. The Chamber telephone number has been placed on a call forward to Dan's cell phone and the large Chamber sign has been removed from the Home Centre building.

Mail Forwarding: The recommendation was made to establish a formal mail forwarding through Canada Post from all mail going to 186 North Street to the Chambers new PO Box. We will continue to pick up mail from 373 King Street.

Future Meeting Plans and Locations: The meetings will remain on the first Friday of each month and for the meeting in August it will remain just the Directors present. The concern for a large enough meeting room to have members attend was discussed and additional chairs can be added to Committee Room.

Committee and Members: This will be discussed more at the August meeting

Town of Bridgewater Meet and Greet: The mayor and council would like to meet with the new Board to discuss a few areas that we can work together. The last week of July was discussed and a message was sent to Mayor Mitchell. Reid recommended that the same happen with the Mayor of MODL and Council and will pursue that opportunity

Next Meeting will be August 03 2018 Committee Room Town Hall 8:30 am