

Meeting Minutes for the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce Board

May 10, 2019

In attendance

Dan Hennessey, Brooke Nodding, Jeff Langille, Jim Brown, Blair Lipsett, Lee Wallet, Bill MacInnis, Shawn Patterson, Bill McInnis

Regrets: Joel Holland, Andrew Mutch, Melissa Prime, Emily MacKay, Reid Whynot

Call to order

8:30am Committee Room Town of Bridgewater

Additions to Agenda

Jim Brown added item under new business

Dan Hennessey added upcoming meeting dates

Correspondence

PVEC awards night information June 11 2019 Jim will be attending to present bursary

Chamber Chat Presentation

No Chamber Chat

Approval of Minutes

Approval for previous meetings minutes from the April 05 2019 Board meeting was passed.

Business Arising

Home Show de brief. Better show with 1800 people attending and the chamber had good exposure. Expect new members from vendors attending. Thoughts to make it better next year. Toonie Toss gained new players but those stopping at the booth would like to know more about the chamber and what we do. Blair introduced the idea of the Chamber taking on issues that effect the community. His thought was the issue of doctor shortages in the South Shore. He is aware of Chambers that have partnered with the health authority and medical schools to try to attract and recruit new doctors. Brooke also mentioned that she is friends with a doctor in the area that is actively looking at this and would be great to partner with. Dan also mentioned about the chamber host a town hall meeting when needed to make members aware of things that may have a economic impact along the lines of Northern Pulp issue. More on an awareness basis. Blair and Brooke agreed to facilitate a meeting to investigate this issue regarding doctor shortages.

Committee Structure: New committee structure is needed and this will look different and will have a better impact on the what our members want and what we can do for our members.

Old Business

Quarterly newsletter for Chamber has been approved by TOB thanks to Bill McInnis, the TOB issues a quarterly newsletter, offered the BACC a space in "the Bridge". Jim will be looking at this and potentially add this to both the Bridge for TOB and Municipal Matters for MODL. Potentially also add the Lunch ND Learn schedule.

Job fair on April 11th noon to 3pm at the Michelin Social Club Jim Brown attended and made lots of great contacts and hopefully attracted some of those attending to come to Bridgewater to present various areas of interest. New location seemed to work well

Financial Update

Lee Wallet discussed the financials, distributed prior to the meeting. He indicated that event expenses seemed low but some of the invoices have yet to be added. Lee indicated that we are trending in the right direction but with the influx of new membership payments will boost this look. Dan will send information to assist with budget preparation for next year

Committee Reports

Educational (Co Chair Blair Lipsett and Brooke Nodding)

- Monthly Education Series (lunch and learn)
- Community workshops (Quarterly)
- Partnerships
 - o NSCC
 - o Nova Scotia Works
 - o Government Funding

Government involvement (Chair-Shawn Patterson)

- Council involvement
- Budgetary understanding
- Membership engagement on issues
 - o Chamber Mandate
 - o Engagement with Municipal bodies

Community Involvement (Jeff Langille)

- Bursaries
- Donations
- Marketing/Advertisement
- Fundraising
- Fall/Spring outreach events

Member engagement (Chair Debra Porter and Jayme Rhyno will work on committee)

- Understanding Membership Benefits
- Creation of new membership Package
- Welcoming Committee
- Fall/Spring networking events
- Facebook presence and private group

Nominations Committee (Chair- Blair Lipsett)

- Active between January/June in preparation of AGM.

Financial (Lee Wallet)

- Budget committee (continuation of present duties)

Executive /Governance (Jim, Blair and Emily)

- Quarterly Meeting of Executive to review and discuss direction.
- Quarterly Newsletter.
- Outreach and collaboration with neighboring chambers.

Jim plans on setting a meeting to plan out what we need to focus on with new meeting structure. He also feels that it is important to engage the membership in some committee work to bring their skill set to the chamber. Brooke did an overview of the Lunch and Learn schedule. Dan spoke about the membership being at an all time high and is very positive. Bill spoke about the upcoming announcement of the Smart City Challenge on May 14 and this could be a major step forward for the town. Bill also indicated that a number of buildings and lots in the downtown could have a sold sign on them very soon which could definitely change the face of the town.

Jim would like to have a follow up meeting for the King Street Merchants in the very near future and possibly hold it at the new King Street Beer location

New Business

Social Media policy: Dan reviewed the existing policy and concerns of what is being shared on the chamber Facebook page may water down the impact of the messages we send out. Jim was concerned that we are using the page as a marketing portal to some and not everyone. Blair suggested that we review the existing policy to see if it is still relevant. Jim suggested that the Membership Engagement Committee take a look at this issue. The need for the Members Only Page is needed to be set up and launched.

Website Review: Jim and Dan met with Digital Fusion and a number of suggestions were made to revamp the site. These should be made over the next few months.

AGM Update: June 13 2019 with registration at 7:30am at Best Western Plus. Preston and Associated will sponsor the event and speak at the event. We will also be offering tables (10) as display tables on a first come basis as they rsvp. No charge for members to attend AGM and discussion on future venues that could be used at a lessor cost for the chamber.

Meeting Dates on a go forward basis will be circulated and the decision was made to use the second Friday of each month to allow for the financials to be generated in time for the meeting. The following dates will be set for upcoming meetings. The meetings will also continue through the summer months to keep momentum going

July 12 2019	August 09 2019	September 13 2019
October 11 2019	November 08 2019	December 13 2019
January 10 2020	February 07 2020	March 13 2020
April 10 2020	May 08 2020	June 12 2020
June 18 2020	AGM	

Adjournment

Next meeting is Friday, June 07 2019, @ 8:30am Council Chamber Town Hall, Town of Bridgewater