

# Meeting Minutes for the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce Board

June 07, 2019

## In attendance

Dan Hennessey, Brooke Nodding, Jim Brown, Blair Lipsett, Lee Wallet, Bill MacInnis, Shawn Patterson, Bill MacInnis, Melissa Prime, Andrew Mutch, Debra Porter, Reid Whynot

Regrets: Joel Holland, Emily MacKay, Jeff Langille

## Call to order

8:30am Committee Room Town of Bridgewater

## Additions to Agenda

## Correspondence

Email from South Shore Breaker to support the graduation feature with an ad 5X2 \$35. Discussion surrounded financials and eventually a motion was made by Reid and seconded by Brooke. Motion passed. Ad was booked with the South Shore Breaker

Doctor retention/attraction opportunity email from Tina Hennigar regarding the chamber attend a meeting to see what our involvement could be. Discussion by Brooke and she will follow up with Tina Hennigar and the group to discuss more

Letter from NDP Caucus seeking an opportunity for their Leader, Gary Burrill, to attend an upcoming meeting. Discussion: Shawn and Melissa will work on this opportunity. Dan will reach out and forward the response to Shawn and Melissa.

HotSpot organization wants to highlight the new app that works with existing meters. Jim suggested that we roll out at the next King Street Merchants meeting last week of June.

## Chamber Chat Presentation

Brian Geddes Direct Ad Factory video was taken and posted

## Approval of Minutes

Approval for previous meetings minutes from the May 10 2019 Board meeting was passed following the change of February Board Meeting date. Now February 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Business Arising

King Street Merchants meeting to be held on Wednesday July 03 2019 at King Street Beer

New Committee Structure: Meetings and committee members will get established following the AGM

## Old Business

Quarterly newsletter for Chamber will start to move ahead with the assistance of Rae Bonneville & Alan Wall with Stone Court Studios. We will connect to see what the next steps will be on the newsletter.

Website Review: Will remain under old business. Ongoing

AGM Update: all 10 tables have been spoken for and at the time of this meeting the RSVP are at 60. Hotel confirmation will be done. Jim also wants to make announcement of Staples addition to members benefit for Bridgewater Chamber members. We will be the second Chamber that this offer will be extended to in Canada.

Garden Party: Plans for the September Garden Party were discussed and the decision was made not to pursue this event this year due to financials and the turn out last year was below what was hoped for. Dan will let food truck and BFD Band know of the cancellation. Motion by Reid not to hold Garden Party this year. Second by Shawn. Event cancelled.

## Financial Update

Lee Wallet discussed the financials, distributed prior to the meeting. Fiscal Year end membership dues are up and Chamber Insurance was down a little. This was the first year of a real budget attempt. Event expenses were an issue with revenues for the events showing a loss. Event planning has to be more in tune with turning this around. Discussion surrounded this report and suggestions were made to look at other venues that would be a lower cost.

## 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
- **Future Lunch and Learn sessions are being looked at for areas of HR, Funding Programs, Office 365, Energize Efficiency**

### **Government involvement (Chair-Shawn Patterson)**

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

**Government Involvement met and discussed opportunities that may come in from outside groups will be looked after by this committee**

**Community Involvement (Jeff Langille)**

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

**Jim Brown will attend the PVEC Awards**

**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

**St John Ambulance approached Debra to advertise FREE first Aid training. Email will be forwarded to Dan who will in turn send along to membership**

**Nominations Committee (Chair- Blair Lipsett)**

- Active between January/June in preparation of AGM.

**Jim indicated that committee has met and will have new members for upcoming 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.

**New Business**

Fall Election (Shawn)

Shawn wanted to make sure that the Chamber will move ahead with a Candidate debate for the upcoming the election

## Chamber Info Session

Following the AGM and once the committees meet would be to hold a membership meeting perhaps at NSCC to have the members come to see the committees and learn more about the chamber. Looking at August or September. Possibly August 19th

Request for two events requested by Rick Perkins.

The only event that is now a possibility to move ahead on is Michelle Rempel for June 24<sup>th</sup>. The discussion dealt with making sure that we remain non- partisan. The cost will be looked at for this event at the Oakhill Fire Hall and the Board felt that we should not have to pay for this event.

Bill McInnis

The TD Bank is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 27<sup>th</sup> in Bridgewater.

Andrew Mutch

Meeting regarding the Smart Cities Challenge next steps. Brooke has spoken to Leon and this message is important to get out to our members. Meeting should be held with the Chamber and the Board in July to discuss. Tammy Crowder added that there is lots of work ahead for the plans and perhaps the timeline to meet may be longer

Reid Whynot

Plans are still happening to recruit and attract more volunteer firefighters. Plaques are available through the Town and MODL to present businesses that support the program by allowing their employees to leave work when a fire call comes in. Dan asked Reid to send a draft communication so we can send along to the members.

Dan Hennessey

Reviewed the Executive Members report and highlighted the total membership and recognized a potential new member in the audience who attend with Jayme Rhyno.

Jim Brown

Toonie Toss involvement by Board members must increase and sked if Debra can send along the schedule of Prize Draws on Friday evenings to get a commitment to attend. Discussion followed.

Bill McInnis addressed the opportunity of the Board sponsoring the Bridgewater Transit bus for Canada Day. The discussion again focused on the finances of the chamber. Discussion followed and the cost would be in next fiscal budget and the decision on putting this to a vote. Motion made to support the sponsorship of the bus in the amount of \$500. Made by Shawn seconded by Blair and motion was passed with Jim making the deciding vote

## Adjournment

Next meeting is Friday, July 12 2019, @ 8:30am Council Chamber Town Hall, Town of Bridgewater