

Meeting Minutes for the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce Board

August 9, 2019

In attendance

Dan Hennessey, Jim Brown, Blair Lipsett, Bill MacInnis, Shawn Patterson, Andrew Mutch, Reid Whynot, Jeff Langille, Jayme Rhyno

Regrets: Brooke Nodding, Blair Lipsett, Melissa Prime, Debra Porter, Lee Wallet

Call to order

8:30am Council Chambers Town of Bridgewater

Additions to Agenda

Correspondence

From the Christmas Tree Producers: Facing competition from the artificial Christmas Trees. How would you like to see this promoted, Facebook post? Include in Newsletter? Buy local strategy, this is what Lunenburg County is known for.

Chamber Chat Presentation

Noah Turcotte- TOB (overview of commercial Phase in Tax). New buildings and renovations that increase the property value of commercial properties should have the option to phase in the increased value of property tax. Looking at options for possible 5 year or 10 year phase in. Yarmouth and other NS communities have property tax phase in programs as well with varied success. Going to council September 9th, 2019, the chamber will wait for the draft by-law to roll out to our members.

Approval of Minutes

Approval for previous meetings minutes from the June 7th, 2019 Board meeting was passed following the change of February Board Meeting date. Now February 14th 2020.

Welcome Jayme Rhyno to the Chamber.

Business Arising

Doctor retention/attraction opportunity email from Tina Hennigar regarding the chamber to 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 forward info to Shawn and Melissa.

Old Business

Quarterly newsletter for Chamber suggestion Ray Bonneville offered to put together our Newsletter and send out electronically.

King Street merchants debrief, parking still an issue. Talked about rerouting of the exhibition parade this year was a source of contention as well it was a lack of communication. Most were unaware that the route had been changed this year. They were very appreciative that the Chamber was out there listening.

Open house for NSCC with BACC to be discussed further with Blair, potential September date.

Several people have offered to help with our committees. Important to keep the dialogue open with them and take up their generous offer.

Fall election coming up, continuing to facilitate candidates forum when the time comes. David Walker met Dan at the Bridgewater Baptist Church; Baptist church wants to offer their building for hosting other events other than their church services. It could be a possible venue.

Financial Update

Financials circulated prior to meeting.

Committee Reports

Educational (Co Chair Blair Lipsett and Brooke Nodding)

- Monthly Education Series (lunch and learn) have been very informative, and is ongoing with success.
- Community workshops (Quarterly) Workplace Education program offering fully funded training sessions. There are mandatory assessments in order to qualify for the funding. We need to cater the training to what is needed and provide the venue. Looking to sign as many people as possible. In the works, if you can make it to any of the sessions please do so. Dan will resend the email with the information to send out to our own contacts.
- Partnerships –Quiet over the summer.

Government involvement (Chair-Shawn Patterson)

- Council involvement
 - Reid- gave compliments for the fireworks in Bridgewater.
 - Bill mentioned council is working on a by-law to do with the heights of buildings. More to come.

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
 - o Jim clarified that Staples benefit to members is only through the print & copy department.

Nominations Committee (Chair- Blair Lipsett)

- Need Secretary still

Financial (Emily)

- Emily put motion forward to invest spare cash in our BACC chequing account in a TD Direct Investing Account and buy a money market fund in order to generate some interest revenue with stagnant funds. Seconded by Bill McInnis, motion passed
- Emily put forward motion to invest \$35,000 in this Direct Investing account leaving a float in the chequing account. Seconded by Andrew Mutch motion passed.

Executive /Governance (Jim, Blair and Emily)

No updates

New Business:

Toonie toss program updates: Tina Hennigar requested we stop, as they are launching a county wide Toonie toss in support for the Mahone Bay Center. We believe there is enough room for both of us. We are supporting kids' education and the Lions club does great work in our community.

Cheque for the chamber presented by Bill \$650 for the bursary and \$650 going to the Lions Club to help the community from the proceeds.

Adjournment

Next meeting is Friday, Sept 13, 2019, @ 8:30am Council Chamber Town Hall, Town of Bridgewater