

Meeting Minutes for the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce Board

October 11, 2019

In attendance

Jim Brown, Blair Lipsett, Reid Whynot, Jeff Langille, Lee Wallet, Brooke Nodding, Shawn Patterson, Jayme Rhyno, Dan Hennessey

Regrets: Debra Porter, Andrew Mutch, Emily MacKay

Call to order

8:33 am Council Chambers Town of Bridgewater

Additions to Agenda

None Noted

Correspondence

TOB Bridge Publication – Patrick Hirtle looking for content. Suggestions were to include Jim’s letter from the BACC newsletter, information on the Lunch and Learn series, and any upcoming training programs offered through the BACC.

Legion request for Poppy Duty – Due to a death in her family, Debra can no longer commit to the 10-12 time slot on Saturday at the Superstore. Dan asked if there were any other volunteers, hearing none, he will take this timeslot himself.

Chamber Chat Presentation

N/A. Dan to follow up with Fay Patey to make sure that she didn’t get the dates confused for the meeting and attempt to reschedule.

Approval of Minutes

Dan amended the minutes to reflect his absence from the last meeting. Approval for previous meeting’s minutes from the October 11, 2019 Board meeting was passed. Motion to approve moved by Jeff Langille, seconded by Lee Wallet. All in favour. Motion carried.

Business Arising

Town of Bridgewater and Chamber Meeting was held on October 29 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers to accommodate numbers. Positive feedback on meeting was received. Noted that the Town was not doing a great job and should be doing more to promote all the good projects underway in Town. The BACC will not be leading the development of the Business Improvement District (BID). Mayor Mitchell committed to participating in another Mayors Town Hall event in the near future.

Breaker Ads – Approval was for the Small Business Week ad and not the Remembrance Day ad.

Board Vacancy – There will be a meeting held on November 4 at 10 AM at the South Shore Breaker office for members of the Nominating Committee to review the applications for new members and put forward a recommendation to the rest of the Board. A vote will take place via email.

Old Business

Holiday Storefront Contest – Dan will start promoting this event after Remembrance Day. Program will remain as in past years.

Lunch and Learn Update – Brooke mentioned that there is only one more session left in the 2019 calendar year. ADT will be presenting on November 28 at the TOB Committee Room. The 2020 Lunch and Learn schedule is open with only January and February currently booked. Brooke is looking for input or suggestions as to new potential speakers/topics. She has one person who has expressed an interest in presenting, Shelley Butler with BDO Accountants but nothing else so far. Suggestion to follow up with Shawn Patterson regarding the Chronicle Herald presenting on HR issues, perhaps Hiring, Firing, etc. Shawn suggested the book “Traction”. Dan also suggested reaching out to the new law firm in town that has been attending our sessions, MacLeod Webber Barristers & Solicitors.

Osprey Nest Public House Event – Dan to follow up with them to discuss options for events/promotion opportunities.

Financial Update

Financials circulated prior to meeting.

There was a discussion around those members who are still outstanding in terms of their paid membership dues. It was recommended that Dan follow up with those members and provide final notice and that there membership would be suspended if dues not received by a certain date.

BACC will receive \$1000 revenue from the provincial training programs.

Jim needs to complete paperwork for investment opportunity.

Committee Reports

Educational (Co-Chair Blair Lipsett and Brooke Nodding) No report. Jayme provided a couple of reviews/feedback from his staff attending the current training session. Dan to share some of the comments with Judy Purcell and Bernice Williams at his next meeting.

Government involvement (Co-Chair-Shawn Patterson and Jayme Rhyno) No report but attempts were made to gain information about what’s been going on with government recently. Shawn mentioned that his colleague, Josh Healy, will be attending the council meetings and could report back to the BACC on what he leans. Dan mentioned that he could start trying to attend the MODL Tuesday morning meetings. Jim encouraged any board members who were able to attend council meetings to do so as it would be good to have BACC present.

Community Involvement / Member Engagement (Co-Chair Debra Porter and Jeff Langille) It was decided that these two committees would merge. Debra is revisiting the Toonie Toss program and will reach out the Gaming Commission regarding new rules. Ideas around the BACC hosting a Fireman's Breakfast type event and looking into the Winter Blues event at the MARC for this upcoming winter. There was some discussion around the development of a coupon book. Board members not too enthusiastic about this idea. On-line auctions were discussed with prizes being donated.

Nominations Committee (Chair Blair Lipsett) Meeting schedule for November 4 at 10 AM at Breaker office.

Financial (Chair Emily) Lee provided update earlier in meeting.

Executive /Governance (Jim, Blair and Emily) No report. BACC does require someone to fill the Secretary executive position.

New Business:

Bridgewater Transit Holiday Sponsorship – Dan to reach out to Patrick to determine what the actual ask is of the BACC and get updated ridership numbers.

Directors Proxy – Concerns have been expressed over attendance at board meetings. Proposal put forward that would allow each director to name one proxy from their business/organization to attend in their place up to a maximum of three times per year. This idea was shelved for the time being. Shawn brought up the idea of revisiting a phone in option for the board meetings. Jim and Dan also stressed the importance of ensuring that board members communicate in advance if they are unable to attend so we can assess numbers.

Vote to Appoint new Secretary – Shawn Patterson has put his name forward as Secretary for the BACC with the caveat that his colleague, Josh Healy, who is interested in becoming more involved in the BACC be allowed to attend and record the minutes on Shawn's behalf and then have Shawn approve them. Motion to name Shawn as Treasurer, moved by Brooke Nodding, seconded by Blair Lipsett. All in favour. Motion carried.

Remembrance Day Message to Members – Dan drafted and emailed a message to all BACC members regarding their consideration of closing for 2 minutes on November 11 at 11 AM in respect of veterans. This message was also posted on the BACC Facebook page and has been since reposted by other Chambers in the province. The BACC office will be closed on November 11. It was also suggested that the BACC purchase a wreath for laying at the Cenotaph during the Remembrance Day ceremony. Dan to take care of that.

Jim asked for board members to consider creating a goal for the community for the next 2-3 years that the BACC could work towards. Issues that were discussed included: doctor shortage, support for downtown, pay discrepancy between provinces, etc. Please bring thoughts and ideas to next board meeting for a more thorough discussion. It was suggested that perhaps if the BACC reached out the Atlantic Chamber on some of these issues that it might be better to have a strength in numbers approach on behalf of the province or the region rather than trying to tackle some of these issues on our own. Dan also mentioned that he has been working with Stephen MacNeil's office on setting up a date for the Premier to come to a session hosted by the BACC in the near future.

Adjournment

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