

Meeting Minutes for the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce Board

DECEMBER 13, 2019

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER COUNCIL CHAMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Brown, Blair Lipsett, Bill MacInnis, Reid Whynot, Lee Wallet, Brooke Nodding, Shawn Patterson, Jayme Rhyno, Nicki Brown, Liam Finney, Stacey Mailman, Bruce , Andrew Mutch, Emily MacKay, Debra Porter, Sherry Spiddle

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 8:30 a.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Received invitation to attend Alzheimer's Society Breakfast on Jan. 24 at Best Western. The breakfast is held as a fundraiser every year and costs \$40 per ticket. Decided that Dan would purchase tickets on behalf of the Chamber.
- 2) Received card from Tim Houston, leader of the Conservative Party of Nova Scotia and MLA for Pictou East. He invited the Chamber to get in contact to organize an event as he tours the province. Decided that Dan would get in touch.

CHAMBER CHAT PRESENTATION

- 1) John Bryson of Safe Home Security was unable to attend due to illness.
- 2) Fay Patey of ISANS (Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia) presented to the Chamber. As per Patey, ISANS has decided to increase their presence in rural Nova Scotia to help employers fill positions through immigration channels. These channels include programs like the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Project to fill skilled positions that aren't being filled by Canadian workers. Patey said ISANS can help employers find programs and navigate the process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Previous Nov. 1, 2019 meeting minutes passed.

BUSINESS ARISING

- 1) Introduced Chamber's three new board members. These included Liam Finney of Tilia Builders, Bruce Anderson of Michelin and Stacey Mailman of Edge of Town.

- 2) Board voted on Best Decorated Store Front 2019 contest. As per Dan, the contest didn't have the same participation it's had in the past; the Chamber had two participants and selected Buck's Home Building Centre.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Bridgewater Transit Sponsorship. Group discussed what should be the primary sponsorship program for the year and decided to continue with the transit sponsorship. Board decided that it would be done as a community investment and way to give back. Capped cost at \$1,000.
- 2) Director's Proxy. Board decided to try out current format with new board members and to revisit the idea of sending a proxy in the coming months.
- 3) Long term goals for the Chamber within the community. Board had a spirited discussion about the Chamber's role and different ways to encourage and grow business in the area through programming. Decided to have an executive meeting to draft something like a five year plan to carry the Chamber forward.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financials circulated prior to meeting.

Lee explained that membership dues are majority of Chamber's cash flow and are currently coming in. In terms of expenses, Lee also highlighted different advertisements and projects due to come out of Chamber account.

Board also discussed need for Jim to sign paperwork at bank so that funds could be transferred from chequing account to direct investing account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Educational (Co Chair Blair Lipsett and Brooke Nodding)

Government involvement (Chair-Shawn Patterson and Jayme Rhyno))

Community Involvement

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

Nominations Committee (Chair- Blair Lipsett)

Financial (Emily)

Executive /Governance (Jim, Blair and Emily)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Meet the Board Holiday Ad. Board discussed structuring of ad in the South Shore Breaker. Was decided that the ad should do more than just introduce new board members by highlighting bus sponsorship, Lunch and Learn schedule and more.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 10, 2020.