

# Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce

## AGENDA BOARD MEETING

June 12 2020

ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting started at 8:30 a.m.

### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- 1) Welcoming new board member. Jim welcomed Rae Ann Bonneville of Stone Court Studios Inc. as the Chamber's newest board member. Rae Ann said she's excited to help out.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) NSCC Online Program. The NSCC launched a free 10-hour online program designed to help entrepreneurs develop business planning skills amid COVID-19. Program information was sent out to membership.

### CHAMBER CHAT

None.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 8 2020 Board Meeting Minutes approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Educational**

-Brooke and Blair did not meet in May. However, the committee did discuss the online program and the Chamber's #BuyLocal initiative. An email was sent out to membership asking local businesses to keep the Chamber updated so we can share hours and re-openings across our platforms. As per Dan, some 20 businesses have sent information so far.

#### **Government Involvement**

-Jayme and Shawn had no news; the budget questionnaires were sent out to membership. The Chamber received one negative response but overall there was little chatter. Bill McInnis from Town gave his report, which included: several businesses are opening and closing, the Town election will go ahead in the fall and Bridgewater hopes to hire an economic development officer for the expanding business park.

## **Community Involvement**

-Liam, Stacey and Debra addressed the AGM conundrum. The concern is that although things are re-opening, how many would be interested in attending a large event. Discussion revolved around some wanting to delay until the fall and others interested in publishing recorded messages / information online through the Chamber's social platforms. Ideas for an online event included a Facebook Live event or some other video service which could be available to membership. The board decided that it would be best to further explore and plan for an online event; tentative date set for September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Nominations**

-As highlighted earlier, the Chamber welcomed Rae Ann Bonneville to the board.

## **Financial**

-With the fiscal year complete, Lee said the Chamber is in good shape financially. The total net revenue was \$56,000 while the expenses were \$48,000; this equated to a \$8,000 surplus. Lee said the province's Education Workplace Initiative helped the Chamber to earn some \$5,000, making it a key contributor outside of our membership dues. Overall, the \$8,000 surplus has given the Chamber some financial wiggle room amid COVID-19.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) Membership invoicing. Dan said the new Sage invoicing program set up by Stacey has made membership invoicing much easier. Once the invoices are produced, they're saved in the program and recyclable for future invoicing purposes. To note, the Chamber has pushed back membership payments until September 1st.
- 2) The Bridge Article. As per Josh, The Chamber's Voice (a column representing the board) went out in The Bridge in June. Next article will be published in the fall.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Invoices. Discussed above.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Board Meeting August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Board Meeting / AGM September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Board Meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Board Meeting November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Board Meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Next meeting is July 10, 2020.