

# OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Friday, October 11th, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 am

**Venue:** MODL Council Chambers

**Present:** Rae Ann Bonneville, Jennifer Naugler, Jayme Rhyno, Shawn Patterson, Debra Porter, Joel Weston, Cheryl Fougere, Jada Ann Davis, Jenevieve McRorie, Siena Cusick

**Guests:** Donna Hatt, Dave Waters

**Regrets:** Pamela Hubley, Shaan Kamboj, Kimberly Amos

**Call to Order 8:31 am**

**President's report - By Rae Ann Bonneville**

## **New Members / Businesses:**

- 3 new businesses have joined- New Wave Roofing and Carpentry, Peninsula Canada, and Andrea Van Wilgenburg Real Estate
- Introducing Siena Cusick- Gr. 11 student at Rive Sud and a new Student Board Member
- Mayor's forum for MODL on October 9th (dayspring fire hall)
- Think Tank October 2nd
- TOB Candidates forum (legion)
- Guest visitor from previous meeting, Hugh MacKay, from Rural Communities requesting that BACC co-host a concert as a fundraiser to stock food pantries for schools across Nova Scotia- proposal declined
- Need to respond to sidewalk bylaw by the town (ex. patio spaces) There are some concerns about parking, snow removal, etc. (Decision to remain neutral)

## **Correspondence**

- Spring expo show- will not be attending, will promote/support
- Awards event november 21st

## Executive Report - Jennifer Naugler

**Currently have 266 members, 3 joining this past month!**

**Sept 20-** Opening reception for the Art Installation at the South Shore Centre and then spoke at the official event at Pinischqua Park about the Chamber's support for the project.

**Sept 27-** Participated in a zoom meeting with National Public Relations on behalf of NSAR, they want to understand our opinions on the challenges and opportunities within the housing market and how NSAR can better support your organization in the future.

**Oct 2-** information session/workshop at the LCLC, which was a follow up to the Emerging Destination meeting.

**Oct 2-**Think Tank #3- Big Challenges/Smart Strategies at the Michelin Social Club

**Oct 3-** Make Your Move at Work, Lunchtime Walk with Hike Leader, Mark Winfield, Partnership with ModL, next one in early November.

**Oct 3-** Candidates Forum for Town of Bridgewater- 63 people attended

**Oct 4-** CME Meeting

**Oct 8-** Small Business Week Meeting: all day event: 11am-7pm (will have a table)- members encouraged to attend

**Oct 9-** Mayor's Candidate Forum at Dayspring Firehall, will not have one for ModL, too challenging as we have too many people

- Request from town to form a committee from the chamber- we don't have a space where businesses can come together- no conduit. This would facilitate events, invite key players, and allow members/businesses.
- Michelin Social Club renovations
- Think Tank Cyber Security moved to new year

### **Email from Joe Kinsman from Southwest Nova Insurance-**

Received an email from Joe Kinsman from Southwest Nova Insurance, our Chamber Plan rep, Southwest Nova Insurance has contracted York Consulting Inc. to assist us in contacting all the businesses in your areas, to talk about the Chambers Plan. York Consulting has been working with a growing number of Chambers advisors across Canada, and they are very good at what they do. They are an appointment setting & lead generation company, so we are optimistic over time we will be meeting a lot more of the businesses in your area.

### **Call from Dalhousie University-**

Dalhousie has begun a series of engagements to improve our understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing communities. NS Engagement Days will see a large delegation of Dalhousie leaders, faculty and staff spend a day in a Nova Scotia community. Each day would have a few signature events and a number of community engagements. The signature events include a community roundtable with Dalhousie and local leadership, and a recruitment event with the local high school. Ad hoc events will be led by Dal units and could include an activity with varsity athletics, a tour of a major NS employer, a Mitacs information session with the Chamber of Commerce, or a roundtable discussion with researchers and municipal organizations on a topic of interest (such as coastal erosion, transit, etc)

## **Financial report - Shawn Patterson**

- Desperately need a treasurer!!

Revenue- \$1994.25

- \$1315.23 - Chamber Group Insurance
- \$415.96 - Membership
- \$797.83 - Paypal (includes several months of ticket sales + memberships)

Expenses- \$6984.50

- \$3542.00- Professional Fees (Ex Director)
- \$743.42- Best Western for Summer Mixer
- \$1408.75- Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership
- \$552.87- Canadian Chamber of Commerce Membership

As of September 1st- \$21, 846.81 in the bank

## **Thank you to everyone who helped at the Mayor's forum on October 9th!**

### **Joel Weston**

- Looking into benchmarking for network coverage, requesting that the board gives mandate on exploring with provider to see costs, potential partners, things to do, as cell coverage is a priority
- Interested in looking into mobile services in Lunenburg county, asking citizens to share data on their experiences.
- There are Apps that helps recover network coverage data

### **Dave Waters**

- The Province of Nova Scotia has been working on this project for years, are certain on where gaps are, and are working towards the solution, considering that it is a difficult problem to solve. Coverage expansion is not enough (5G meant for cities not rural areas)
- Suggests going to province and see data they have already, no need to research this
- Meeting with Province coming up, will share at next chamber meeting what is brought up
- Will need to request data / request a meeting, plans will be put on agenda to request a meeting.

### **Town Update: Cheryl Fougere-**

- Thank you to chamber for hosting town candidates
- Sept. 28th, Doctor's tour
- Tuesday Oct 15 was last regular council meeting of current council
- Oct. 19 municipal election (swearing in new council) - informal for public
- Cheryl Fougere will continue in the chamber!
- Province has brought forward code of conduct for all board members, for municipal councils (minimum standards)
- Town's 125th birthday, thank you to Donna Hatt for leading the paddle along the river
- Beautiful bridgewater- family event at duck pond, will include family movie night, pumpkin carving

**Donna Hatt**

- Exit 12 enterprise drive paving has begun, expansion underway, provincial departments are suggesting that the interchange will be finished by the end of 2024
- International network Michelin Cities- mayor David Mitchell serves as director
- Oct 21st, begin day with a site tour, heading to NSCC for lunch and launch, invited Picto, and King's County, presentation on INMC, what it means, revealing elements on support systems
- 6 foot birch bark canoe, made by an elder, as part of 125 bridgewater, launch will be november 2nd

**Dave Waters- ModL update**

- We are underway osprey village
- Session likely to be at bW
- Feasibility study for food hub in the area
- Tour of freeman's last week, tree lots
- Housing- working on 14 projects in the district of Lunenburg with 15 units, various forms.

**Upcoming-**

- Advocacy committee will need a member to lead it!
- Small business week- Oct. 16, at Best Western 11am to 7pm
- Mixer planned At The Osprey Nest Eatery Oct 23rd, members encouraged to join (celebrating small businesses, stories) - need one more story to add (20\$ per member, 30\$ non members, app. Food, free drink.)
- Lunenburg Queens business excellence awards tickets on sale Oct 21st, anyone who is a finalist/awards sponsor first opportunity to tickets,
- Christmas party, just for members, at Saunders, December 5/6, will have saltbox there, looking at having a wine option (contact wineries)
- New members drive, money left to spend from our annual sponsor (Advocate), direct mail piece, mail list of all businesses that aren't members, will include info about chamber, and invites to a morning session in January, session in late January, sent out in early Jan. Addressed mail 53 cents each.
- Dave + Donna will send a list of businesses to help with mail list

**Remembrance day**

- We will do a wreath- Jada + Jayme will work on getting on the list, Jenevieve and Siena (Student Reps) will lay the wreath.

**Next Board Meeting November 8th- TOB Council Chambers**

**Meeting adjourned at 9.59 am.**