

Meeting Minutes for the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce

Call to order

A meeting of Bridgewater Chamber of Commerce was held at Town Hall Chambers on April 13th, 2018. Attendees included Dan Hennessey, Exec Director, Bob Richards, President, Emily MacKay, Secretary, Harry Rhyno, Director, Bill MacInnis, Council Member, Brooke Nodding, Director, Andrew Mutch, Director, Reid Whynot, Director, Lee Wallet, Director, and Jim Brown, Director, Blair Lipsett, Director. Special welcome from Bob Richards to Andrew Mutch.

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda set forth for today's meeting, received by all board members prior to the meeting. Added Provincial Funding to agenda under New Business by Bill MacInnis.

Correspondence

Dan H. No new correspondence.

Chamber Chat Presentation

Melissa Prime, director of Millennium One Solutions, presented. Millennium One Solutions opened in year 2000 in Bridgewater. They employ approximately 330 employees and provide customer support to various companies, especially financial, such as Presidents Choice MasterCard.

Minutes approved

Approval for previous meetings minutes, Mar 2nd, was asked for by Dan Hennessey, moved by Brooke Nodding, 2nd by Blair Lipsett.

Business Arising

Parkview Education Centre Bursary has been approved, and Michelin will contribute \$200 alongside the Chamber Contribution of \$200.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Osprey Ridge Golf Course on June 28th at 7:30am to 10am. Don Bureau will be presenting.

Funding request from the town of Bridgewater for the music program has been declined as per recommendation by the budget committee.

Polling membership project has been taken over by the Events Committee & SSREN is helping.

A) Old Business

Signing authority discussion, motion made to add Dan H. as a signing authority as long as he signs with a second board member (as per the policy 2 members sign anyways). This makes sense, as Dan H. is usually paying all of our bills for us anyways. Motion moved by Jim Brown, 2nd by Emily MacKay, motion carried.

Financial Update

Financial update provided by Dan H, as per financials previously circulated prior to meeting. Recommendation was made for questions regarding the financials are to go to the Treasurer, Emily MacKay, to find/provide the answers to any questions.

Committee Reports

Brooke Nodding, Events Committee member, presented an update on events.

- OHS event may 9th at the fire department at 9 to 11am. Need board members to help set up between 8 & 9am.
- May 2nd, 10am-2pm, Cooks Falls Room at the Best Western presentation by the Chronicle Herald & the South Shore Breaker (partnered with BACC) on utilizing digital advertising.
- June 13th tentative Business Event providing entrepreneurs with information. More details to follow.
- Polling membership project has been taken over by the Events Committee & SSREN is helping. Comment from Harry Rhyno was that the poll is taking a long time to get going, 5 plus months now.
- Potential fundraising via the lions club being explored as a fundraiser.

Membership Comm/Welcoming Comm – Jim Brown, & Blair Lipsett working on garnering interest.

Budget Committee met March 29th. Currently gathering information on recurring revenue in order to come up with reasonable budget estimates. Dan H. to discuss the Donald Gass of TD about obtaining credit card to pay day to day expenses of BACC as opposed to writing and mailing cheques.

Ex Directors Report. Dan H. reviewed his Directors Report from March that was previously circulated. Membership continues to grow and at the time of this report we are at 163 paid members and 4 complimentary memberships. The positive for this number is that we have secured 28 new members this year which is great news.

New Business

Chamber mandate –policy #9 Committee formed by Blair Lipsett, Andrew Mutch & Emily Mackay in order to communicate the memberships needs, wants and views based on polls that are being developed. Blair Lipsett moved motion to add “undecided” as a poll answer, Andrew Mutch 2nd, motion passed.

SSREN update, funding partners are withdrawing their support, SSREN may no longer continue to operate.

Discussed as a group the Municipal Affairs Committee becoming a real possibility to represent business owners to MODL and TOB.

Bob Richards discussed and brought to our attention Bill 85 which currently has Canso & Guysborough competing for shipping business to the detriment of sustainable provincial economies. ACC has written a letter on the topic. BACC has no opinion on the topic and we should become more aware of these political issues impacting business in Nova Scotia and in our region. Bob also brought up provincial fairness issues on taxation as a topic BACC should be exploring and becoming more knowledgeable.

Presentation

Senior Safety Presentation by David Walker & Shona Brown was cancelled.

In Camera Session

Board of Directors only- refer to recording

Discussed drafting a possible *code of conduct* for all board members of BACC.

Adjournment

Bob R. announced the end of the meeting. Next meeting is May 4th @ 8:30am sharp Town Hall.

Emily MacKay, Secretary