

Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce
Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors
held on 7th April 2017

Cooks Falls Room, Best Western
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

Present: Trevor, Lee, Andrew, Tina, Harry, Lisa, Brooke, Dan, Shawn, Blair, Andrea
Bill

Additions to Agenda – N/A

1. **Approval of Agenda** – MOTION to approve agenda made by Brooke. SECONDED by Andrew. CARRIED
2. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting** –
3. **Financial Report**
Compared to this time last year there is a slight deficit but the bank balance is at \$50,000 so we are still in a good position. We still have a credit with Eastlink that we need to get back.
4. **Old Business**

Nick Langley Presentation
Postponed until September

AGM Plans

Date is June 9, 7:30 am at Best Western. Key note speaker is confirmed as Lynn Hennigar. Harry agreed to introduce her at the meeting. There is a new addition to the agenda – Emma Wagner from Bridgewater High will speak on the Adventure in Citizenship program (a program with the Rotary Club) which she is involved in. She asked the Chamber for a letter of support and she was selected to represent Bridgewater.

Dan to email members and they should RSVP by Monday of that week. We will provide 10 tables around the room for businesses to use for promotion.

Appointment of Directors

Nominating Committee of Ryan Buck, Jim Brown & Shawn Patterson and an application has been designed. We have a total of 13 spaces on the board. Confirmed returning are Trevor, Lee, Andrew, Harry, Brooke, Blair, Lisa, Shawn. Andrea will confirm by end of day. We need to fill the positions of Vice President, possibly 2nd Vice if Trevor doesn't take Vice and Treasurer.

We need to make sure that members who want to be part of the board will work and not just fill seats. Applications will be voted in at the AGM. And there could be nominations from the floor.

Questions arose about members not being able to attend the required amount of meetings because they are away for winter months. There is the possibility of skyping or calling into these meetings. However this can only be an option for extenuating circumstances and conditions would have to be set. There is currently nothing in the by-laws to reflect this and

the by-laws would have to be amended at the AGM. Tina agreed to make a motion at the AGM to allow members to attend the meetings they would miss for extenuating circumstances via skype.

All board positions are elected at the AGM and there are calls for nominations. Ryan will get the applications to all people that have shown an interest. It was also suggested that Sherry from Belliveau Veinotte join the board as Treasurer but then discussed as this could be a conflict of interest as they are our accountants. Thought perhaps she could just be invited to meetings on a quarterly basis to give the financial report.

Also suggested that the by-laws be posted on the Chamber's website.

Office Location

Dan has brought up some concerns with the current space as he is the one working there daily. Space is the biggest concern.

Tina and Shawn spoke to Andrew Button at C03 – rent would be \$450/month with Preston & Assoc subsidizing \$150/month. No internet charge and access to copier. It is a good location. We are currently paying less with our space though. Question was asked if we have really given our current location chance. We don't have signage out yet, there are not many people that actually visit the office. We don't have any other source of income other than membership right now so should we really be spending the extra money to relocate. The Chamber has a lot of work to do to position itself and moving at this time is not as important. We first need a vision and that vision will determine the best location for the office.

MOTION made to remain in our current location until our mission statement and vision are in place and the revisit the office location by Blair. SECONDED by Andrea. CARRIED

We will still continue to have meetings off site at Best Western and Tina gave a price of \$75 per meeting. MOTION to continue to use Best Western for monthly board meetings at \$75 per meeting made by Harry. SECONDED by Andrew. CARRIED

Blair volunteered to head up the vision plan and a strategic plan committee was formed which includes Blair, Trevor, Jim Brown, Ken Young, Andrew, Lee, Harry. Committee will work within our current mission statement and present something at the AGM. Also ask members for thoughts and suggestions.

Other things to mention at AGM – Welcoming Committee, also mention the upcoming changes we see for the Chamber like its position and direction. This can be addressed in the Presidents report.

5. New Business

Candidates Debate

Scheduled for May 25 at 7 pm – Best Western with Lunenburg West candidates

Continue with same format with a moderator, which will again be Blair, submitted questions and questions from the floor. Blair will do questions and keep confidential. He will be the only one to know the questions. Bob Richards has agreed to sponsor half of the event at \$300. Looking for a sponsor for the other half. Event info will be emailed to members and also a press release.

6. Next Meeting: Monday June 5 at 10 am – Best Western

7. Adjournment – meeting adjourned.