



Bridgewater and Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Friday, July 12th, 2024

Time: 8:30 am

Venue: MODL Chambers

Present: Shaan Kamboj, Jennifer Naugler, Cheryl Fougere, Pamela Hubley, Rae Ann Bonneville, Rita Caissie, Jada Ann Davis, Joel Weston

Regrets: Debra Porter, Shawn Patterson, Jayme Rhyno, Kimberley Amos

Call to order 8:33 am

Additions to Agenda: none

Minutes for May 2024: Motion to pass the minutes for May 2024 by Pam, Shaan seconded the motion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Rae Bonneville

- Article written for the Bridge published in June
- Jennifer and Rae attended Leading Ladies event at Betty's in Mahone Bay
- Dine Alfresco on June 15th has changed venue to The Hill
- Sponsored Canada Day bus and will be sponsoring again during Christmas
- Ad for 2024 Grads on Saltwire on June 21st
 - o Given 3 bursaries \$400 each, at Parkview, New Germany High School and French School. Teri-Lynn, Rae and Jennifer presented the awards.
- June 21st attended stakeholders meeting hosted by Town of Bridgewater – vision for the town, businesses incoming and new highway exchange.
- LQ Business Collective – 335 businesses nominated for awards. Michelin hosting cocktail reception. Looking for more sponsors
- Continuing the sponsor drive later this year

CORRESPONDENCE/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT by Jennifer Naugler

- Attended Atlantic Chamber of Commerce conference in Halifax
- June 14th – AGM
- June 18th partnered with Meghan Doucette from Energize Bridgewater for Contractor's breakfast; info shared on energy efficiency program
- June 18th attended Bridgewater retail and accommodation gap analysis meeting with Karen Hunt from FBM Architecture firm.
- June 19th, virtual meeting with Taylor Yamens CJLCC – Canada's 2SLGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce – leads rainbow register program for tourism and hospitality in Canada. Expanding rainbow registration presence. Fully Funded inclusion training at no cost. Considering partnership with Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce.
- June 19th meeting at Amara Centre in Liverpool, Roundtable on Immigration and population growth, housing, childcare support, accessing and promoting transportation for newcomers. Working on toolkit for employers
- June 21st – Exit 12 A expansion meeting
- June 25th – Job chat and chill by Small business week in Oct at Best Western
- New Germany high school graduation
- Summer road trip continued for summer 2024
 - o Visited BernArt Maze on July 4th
 - o Lemonade communication (new member)
- From 9th to 11th July attended Awaken Tourism Conference

FINANCIAL REPORT by TREASURER

n/a

UPCOMING EVENTS and Recap of Events

Recap

- AGM – great venue at Michelin and food by Hustle Bustle catering. Photos uploaded on the chamber website.
 - o New student board member joined - Genevieve McRorie student at Centre Scolaire de la Rive Sud
- BernArt event cancelled due to rain. Rescheduling for July 15th
- Aug 8th – Summer mixer at Best Western
- September – new initiatives for the board. Series of workshops, paid presenters. Would like to form an economic outlook committee from our board. More opportunities for advocacy, example - King Street business group. Forming official committees.
- Focus on business events
- Use funds from Advocate sponsorship
- Chat with lighthouse bulletin about ad campaign

- List of businesses from MODL
- 2 more think tank events in Fall
- Oct 16th – Small business week at Best Western
- Tentative Oct 24th Oktoberfest venue discussion
- Nov 21st event for LQ Business collective
- Christmas party venue suggestions? Honda dealership?

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER update by Cheryl Fougere and Donna Hatt

- Donna thanks the chamber for participation in the Exit 12 A discussions
- July council meeting:
 - o Undertake planning process, tourism planning
 - o Initial workshop information in September Municipal. Open discussions of accommodations within town
- John Howards society issues discussed. Mayor has meeting with Justice department.
- Centennial bridge fire – Reopening timeline is end of Aug-Sept
- Grant for transit service to run till 11 pm. Sunday 9 am to 5 pm
- Ships removed by coast guard on the Lahave river. Area remediation in progress.
- 2nd pride parade event on Sunday, July 7th. Pride flag, Lunenburg pride association.

Rita – discussion about Daycare study – YMCA reached out to MODL, discussions about lack of daycare availability.

MODL update by Pamela Hubley

- Motion was passed by MODL to have chamber representative term for 2 years
- Ribbon cutting ceremony for FH Developments 57 units
- Stonemount residence senior living first resident by September
- Summer Recreation programs, movie etc. South Shore EX 23rd parade
- Coastal protection regulations
- MODL 2040
- Day in the life project - Lunenburg accessibility. Updating Lunenburg accessibility plan
- Elections on October 19th – debate in September

Rita - Last week of Sept – Michelin is hosting inspiration sessions. Small businesses to participate for session. 3 businesses needed.

Next Board meeting: September 13th, Town of Bridgewater

Adjourned – 9:49 am