

**Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Cooks Falls Room, Best Western**  
**Bridgewater, Nova Scotia**

**Present:** Dan, Trevor, Lisa, Shawn, Brooke, Blair, Lee  
Bill

**Additions to Agenda – Chamber Group Insurance**

**1. Approval of Agenda –**

**2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting –**

**3. Financial Report**

Sherry Spidle, Belliveau Veinotte, is doing all the bookkeeping now. We have no report as of yet but the bank balance is \$50,951. The only things coming out of account now on a reg basis are Dan's salary, Rent, payroll remittance, phone bill. Because of the move we have a mix up with Eastlink and are currently sitting with at \$700 credit.

Joint Stocks renewal is due in May and our info needs to be updated.

**4. Correspondence**

French school sent letter informing us that they don't have any students that will qualify for the bursary this year so they will not require it from us but would like the opportunity for next year. All in agreement.

Received a letter from Desbrisay Museum asking for our support in trying to have the motion by Town to decrease hours to seasonal rescinded. The letter serves as a request to come and address the Chamber at a meeting. As per Bill 90% of visitors come between May and Oct and the Town is subsidising \$44 per visitor. A study was done in 2014 and visitors have declined since then. Dan to arrange for a member of the Museum to attend a meeting.

**5. Old Business**

**Storefront Contest**

Presentation was made to K&S Fashions. Story and pic have been in the Breaker. Agreed that we should continue next year and need to push and target more businesses.

**Volunteer Awards**

Reminder that Blair & Brooke have been selected

**MLA Breakfast De-Brief**

Made about \$384. Mark presentation was very good.. Suzanne not very well received. Question was asked if we should address it with her now? Decided if she is re-elected and we have her back to speak we will then address what we expect.

### **Appointment of Directors**

Looks at who wants to re-offer and recruits

Need to know what board members are staying and what ones are not

Members need to make a commitment and be present if they want to sit on the board and also if nominated should state why they feel they should be a director.

## **6. New Business**

### **Cheque Signing Policy**

Very difficult for Brooke to get the required signatures on cheques. Decided to have some pre-signed cheques for her.

### **Jamie Baillie Visit**

Chamber declined to personally take him to businesses. Consensus was we didn't want to be partisan by taking him business to business. Our events are generally perceived differently where we host all parties and invite ppl to come.

### **After Hours Event De-Brief**

Lynds Den went very well and was well attended.

Bridgewater Police have a Town Hall planned for May 2 at the Days Inn from 10 am – 11:30 am. The police dog will be there and The Police Association will give an overview of the annual report.

### **Nick Langley**

Would like to come to our May meeting to provide a brief overview

### **AGM Plans**

June 9 at 7:30 am Best Western

Shawn suggested Lynn Hennigar for keynote speaker. All in agreement. Dan to contact.

### **Chamber Office Discussion**

Dan is finding the current location very small. We still have boxes to pick up from old location and we need to have room to store these and have it accessible. If deciding on a new location it is important that we have a vision for the Chamber to reflect where we should be located. We need a plan and need committees to spearhead these plans.

Bob offered more space such as the next office. He offered space for a Chamber stationary sign. The use of the digital sign was offered in the agreement but we haven't used yet. Definitely need a stationary sign if we stay. We need a meeting to discuss only this – April 21 at 8:30 am at the Chamber office for Board members.

### **Chamber Group Insurance**

6 business that current on their membership but take advantage of benefits. Jennie to contact.

## Topics From The Floor

Issues to consider:

- Transit – cost is \$200,000 to operate and revenue expected is \$30,000. Does Chamber support?
- Policing
- Chamber need a position on the Museum
- Chamber should make a presentation to council on Transit
- Parking rate – Chamber should have a position on this
- Twinning of highway – Chamber should have a presence at meetings and a position on this
- Hospital – no MRI or Dialysis machine. Closest is Liverpool and South Shore is a Regional Hospital. Chamber & Town should take a position on this.
- LCLC – what are long term plans? Business owners are paying a surcharge tax so they definitely should have an interest in this. Should we have Kevin Benjamin come and do a presentation? Why is it losing events to Queens? And why is Queens getting events that LCLC doesn't go after?
- June 9 at 7:30 am Best Western

The Town budget is on April 24 – big issue the Chamber should be addressing is the tax rate. There should be more of a balance between commercial & residential. Commercial tax rate has increased 42% since 1996. Should plan a meeting to discuss this issue further. Should send something out to members asking if any member is interested in this meeting to contact Chamber President Shawn Patterson.

The Chamber should be a very powerful voice among businesses. We need to establish ourselves as this. We need committees to help accomplish what we've talked about.

Nominating Committee

New Membership Committee

Budget Committee – which should be done soon as the Town budget is presented on Apr 24  
 Welcoming Committee – to welcome new businesses as they open in Town and surrounding area. Ryan Buck volunteered to be on this committee.

We need to send out info to our members with our mission statement and asking for help to revamp the Chamber and make it what it should be. Also ask businesses to forward any email addresses they would like to have added to our automatic email list.

**7. Next Meeting:** Friday May 5 at 8:30 am at Best Western

**8. Adjournment** – meeting adjourned.