
Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of Bridgewater Chamber of Commerce was held at Town Hall Chambers on Oct 6th, 2017. Attendees included Bob Richards, Pres., Dan Hennessey, Exec Dir., Shawn Patterson, 1st V Pres., Stacey Mailman, Acting Secretary, Sherry Stewart-Spidle, Treasurer, Harry Rhyno, Director, Brooke Nodding, Director, Blair Lipsett, Director, Lee Wallet, Director. Members not in attendance included & Andrew Zinck, Director, Trevor Walters, 2nd V Pres

Approval of Agenda

Noted by Bob R, Pres & Dan Hennessey, the Agenda set forth for today's meeting. Received by all board members prior to the meeting. New items were added by Shawn Patterson, 1st V Pres., Small Business Week coming up & Training...Missed this part?? After agenda discussions, there will be a presentation from Leon de Vreede from the Energize Bridgewater Project.

Approval of Agenda was asked by Bob R, Pres.

Motion

Was moved by Blair Lipsett, 2nd by Brooke Nodding, Directors. Vote was called for, Motion Passed.

Correspondence

Dan Hennessey read email sent to Pres. Bob Richards, from Michael Graves regarding the Energy Savings – Community approach program.

Dan Hennessey read aloud a letter from the Royal Canadian Legion Bridgewater Branch #24. It was asking for support on the Pole Banners campaign to acknowledge Veteran's Week, Nov 5th – 11th. The Pole Banner are \$250 each. Discussions were brief and a motion was asked for to once again support the Legion this year.

Motion

Was moved by Shawn Patterson, 2nd by Brooke Nodding, Directors. Vote was called for, Motion Passed.

Correspondence continued with Dan Hennessey reading an email sent by the Bridgewater Playground Fund Raising Committee. It was asking for the support of the Chamber, as well as its members regarding tickets being sold as a main fund raiser. It was noted that this would be put on the BACC website in the "Member News & Events" tab on the page. It was also noted in context with this request that, this approach was one change made to the way the BACC supports its members. Instead of "spamming" the membership's inboxes, the information is now being posted on the Website for Members to search and inquire upon. Any members can take advantage of this, and contact should still be made via email to Dan Hennessey. No motion required.

Minutes approved

Approval for previous meetings minutes was asked for by Dan Hennessey. Bob Richards, Pres., asked for the amendment of two parts of those minutes. One Amendment was to note that there was a motion to approve the "By-Law Review committee" at last meeting. And, the Free Skate sponsored by the BACC was approved by way of the Electronic Voting system.

Motion

Was moved by Harry Rhyno, 2nd by Blair Lipsett, Directors. Vote was called for, Motion Passed.

Old Business

It was discussed that feedback had been requested at last meeting from the Energize Bridgewater Project, regarding the information & status shared about the, Community Investment Plans. Members were encouraged to provide their feedback on the website.

Approval for old business was asked for by Bob Richards, Pres., I. It was, per Dan Hennessey.

Motion

Was moved by Shawn Patterson, 2nd by Blair Lipsett, Directors. Vote was called for, Motion Passed.

New Business

Items noted

- The need for an appointed Voting Representative from each BACC Member – RE: Policy#4. And the need to communicate this to the membership once again. Default to be Members name that signed the BACC Membership application.
- Chamber Chat – RE: Policy#5 - seen as a new opportunity for members to be welcomed at all meetings. Need to decide next step as to how to move forward with this initiative.
- 5 Minute Opening Idea – Members presenting for a 5 minute time space, at the beginning of a Chamber meeting or event, for the purpose of explaining some part of their business as a forum for growth & new ideas, as well getting name & brand recognition.
- Other BACC Policy's that have recently been developed, ie Policy# 6, allowing Proxy Voting as approved by board.
- Voting Electronically and how this is getting more finely tuned as it's being tested. Board & it Membership is encouraged to check out ballotben.com because it is the host of the electronic voting platform.

General conversations continued briefly regarding all of the new policies being implemented by the current board.

Reports

Dan Hennessey, Exec Director, asked Treasurer, Sherry Stewart-Spidle to report on the previous month's financials.

Sherry stated bank account balance at September 30th, as well as that a copy of the financials were circulated to the Board previous to the meeting. It was noted that the membership base is still growing, comparatively to previous years, current membership is at an all-time high. No one had any questions or concerns.

Committee Status Reports

By-Law Review Committee

Bob R still as Acting-Chair, no one has volunteered to assume position. Draft#8 of the new By-Laws has been circulated to the board & Goal is to have new by-laws passed & approved at next meeting.

Motion

No Motion requested.

Membership & Welcoming Committee

Shawn Patterson reported that one meeting was held during the summer months for the Membership committee. Nothing was truly accomplished. Shawn also reported that the Welcoming committee isn't formed yet. Volunteers are needed to complete the Terms of Reference, and organize an action plan. Bob R & Dan H added that they are talking together about visiting business when they open to welcome them, and invite them as members.

Vision & Goals Committee

Blair Lipsett, Director & Chair asked if the board thought there should be more circulation to the membership allowed for more input on the boards Mission, Vision & Goals. It was unanimously agreed by the board that sufficient time has already been allowed for input. Therefore, a motion was requested to end the input period.

Motion

Was moved by Blair Lipsett, 2nd by Shawn Patterson, Directors. Vote was called for, Motion Passed.

Next, it was agreed that the Terms of Reference should be finalized, so they may be voted on & implemented. A motion was requested to approve and implement the new Terms of Reference.

Motion

Was moved by Blair Lipsett, 2nd by Shawn Patterson, Directors. Vote was called for, Motion Passed.

Events Committee

Dan Hennessey, Exec Director spoke of the 3 September events that were arranged and or sponsored in part by the BACC. The Tax Info session held Sept 12th at the Days Inn was considered a positive event, and it was discussed that once the government announces the 10 am sponsored by Grant Thornton. It is an information session regarding the new proposed Tax changes by the Federal government. The Lunch meeting with the School Board and will be on Sept 19th, at Osprey Ridge Golf Course. The price is \$20 for members, and \$22 for non-members. An opportunity for the business sector to inquire about the current events of our local school board.

Dan also spoke of the return of the Free Skate at the LCLC, the 4th event scheduled, same as last year. Kevin Benjamin approached him, as he had logged the event last year as very successful, and wanted to know if the Chamber was interested in doing it again. It is scheduled for Dec 5th, 5:30pm – 7:20 pm.

Dan also shared that the Digital Social Media event of last year, thought to be the 5th event, would be great, sponsored by the South Shore Breaker & Chronicle Herald. Director, Shawn Patterson felt that it wouldn't be a problem to repeating the same event this year, and he will check into this and get back to Dan Hennessey about details.

It was also acknowledged that a new Chair for the Events Committee is needed. The previous chair was Lisa Flemming, Director and Secretary who resigned her position on September 7th, 2017. This was confirmed by Dan Hennessey, Exec Director & Bob Richards, Pres.

Also stated, was the request by Bob R, Pres. for the board members to get involved in this committee as well as the others previously mentioned. And, the importance for the board members to build and inform the membership about the benefits of a strong, active local chamber.

Discussions

Noted by Bob Richards, Pres. that a designated person per business member for online, E-Voting privilege is needed. It was suggested that the message go out in a "pointed" email to the members so this process may be completed before moving forward with more valued issues need to be voted on. Some e-votes are being asked for, from Board Members to test the system, with hopes to be fully online soon.

Nominating Committee

Discussion was also held, led by Bob Richards, Pres. regarding the definition and purpose of a Nominating committee. As well, Bob spoke to the need, or the lack thereof to form another committee to fill the current vacancies on the board. It was also acknowledged that the Chair position for this committee is vacant.

More discussion was held regarding the E-Voting system as a whole. It was agreed to discuss at future meetings the pros & cons of Online E voting. It was also agreed that the system needs "tweaking" and the Board was asked to record their ideas for that future meeting and discussion.

Next discussion was regarding the Aug 6th Letter to the Members, signed by Bob Richards, Pres. It was to encourage the members to create low-no cost ideas of how to promote businesses in our local area. Two responses were confirmed to date. More suggestions would be encouraged, from the Board & members.

Upcoming Event Announcements

Next Board Members only meeting date – Board Business only - Friday Oct 15th, 8:30 am at 186 North Street. Harry Rhyno, Director stated he would not be available.

Next Meeting of the Board of Directors, open to the membership – Nov 3rd, 8:30 am at Town Council Chambers, Pleasant Street.

Adjournment

Bob Richards, Pres. announced the end of the meeting and a 2-3 minutes break, before beginning of promised presentation by Leon de Vreede from the Energize Bridgewater Project.

Stacey Mailman

Oct 29th 2017

Acting- Secretary

Date of approval