

Meeting Minutes for the Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce Board

October 11, 2019

In attendance

Jim Brown, Blair Lipsett, Bill MacInnis, Reid Whynot, Jeff Langille, Lee Wallet, Brooke Nodding

Regrets: Melissa Prime, Debra Porter, Shawn Patterson, Andrew Mutch, Jayme Rhyno, Emily MacKay

Call to order

8:30am Council Chambers Town of Bridgewater

Additions to Agenda

None Noted

Correspondence

South Shore breaker advertising for upcoming seasonal promotions. Agreed to sponsor two small business card format ads.

Chamber Chat Presentation

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Approval for previous meetings minutes from the September 13th, 2019 Board meeting was passed.

Business Arising

Training program and funding start is up and running

Town of Bridgewater and Chamber Meeting will be Tuesday the 15th at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room to accommodate numbers.

Budget approval – Bill, Emily, and Lee met to finalize. Coles Notes are that there was an increase in membership dues, bursary expenses and Tonnie Toss revenue will even out, Investment revenue is at roughly 1.6 percent, which is not too significant, we lost about \$3,000 last year, and are budgeted to lose \$1,500 this year with not offering as many free or no cost events this coming year and since we have a projected increase in revenue by \$700, we have a little room for adjustments.

Blair motioned for approval, seconded by Bill. Motion passed.

Old Business

Quarterly Newsletter was circulated prior to meeting, and all thought it was a good promotional tool for the work we are doing.

Financial Update

Financials circulated prior to meeting.

The biggest expense noted was the website adjustments that were requested. We also have about 25 percent of the membership dues to come in.

Committee Reports

Educational (Co Chair Blair Lipsett and Brooke Nodding)

Government involvement (Chair-Shawn Patterson)

Community Involvement (Jeff Langille)

Member engagement (Chair Debra Porter and Jayme Rhyno will work on committee)

Nominations Committee (Chair- Blair Lipsett)

Financial (Emily)

Executive /Governance (Jim, Blair and Emily)

It was pointed out by Jim that while a lot of these committees are not active at the moment, we should all take the initiative to get the ball rolling on them.

New Business:

Toonie Toss elimination – this was mainly due to the new gaming regulations that have come in that made it very difficult for our partner The Lions Club to continue.

Candidates Debate Debrief – Went well overall; however, given the amount of parties interested, we should look at extending the time allocated for the debate if the candidate count stays high. There was only enough time for an opening, five questions, and a closing. There were people who were disappointed that they couldn't ask the candidates questions. Also, while the Best Western is an ideal venue, given the amount of people who were there, we may want to look for larger spaces to host this. Perhaps a gymnasium. The other issue raised was whether or not we need to invite all candidates to participate. The consensus at the table was yes; however, it may warrant discussion when asked to facilitate again.

Board Vacancy Decision – Blair will send out a poll for an in camera discussion prior to next board meeting to see a good time to chat about the Chamber members that put their names forward.

Halloween Storefront – we will not be taking part in this.

Christmas Storefront – we will be taking part in this, and will look at potentially partnering with the Christmas on the LaHave committee. We will also look at entering the parade, and a couple of Board members will look into whether or not they can supply equipment like a trailer.

Jeff Langille let the Board know that his colleague Kim has left Taylor Flooring, so she will not be an alternate for him going forward.

Rob Simpson spoke from the audience to let us know about the Lunenburg County Health Board partnering with Sobey's for a sensory awareness time each Sunday allowing people with these types of sensitivities to be able to shop in more comfort. Rob asked us to promote this through the membership as something that should be considered in other businesses.

Adjournment

Next meeting is Friday, November 1, 2019, @ 8:30am Council Chamber Town Hall, Town of Bridgewater