

**Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce  
General Meeting January 16, 2014**

Attendance: Chair Neil Cook, Mayor and Rita Hurlburt, Gerry & Maureen Publow, Jennifer D'Aubin, Scott, Bank Nova Scotia, Dianne Elliott, Chantele Reid, Ruth Wright, Firefly Makery, Mike Gushue, Kirk Lycett, Jason Rice, Norm Hamelin Salvation Army, Clark Morris  
Regrets: Andy Kerr and Gary Olsvik

Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM with a welcome to all from Chair Neil Cook.

Minutes of November 2013 meeting were approved.

No business arising from minutes; Mike advised he is still interested in getting in touch with all businesses in the area regarding membership in the BACC. This will be on agenda for February 2014 meeting.

Ruth gave intro to her business, Firefly Makery, and advised the business is progressing very well. They have a number of events scheduled for the near future. At present they have 45 consigners, mostly local crafters from the Valley, a beautiful selection of items for sale. The next step for the business is to increase stock supplies for their in-house crafting.

**Finance Report** – no finance report as Gary was absent.

**From the Town** – Mayor Hurlburt commented on four positive indicators that the Town is progressing; Trojan Center, P-12 School, New businesses opening in town, and the ongoing endeavours by Kirk.

Mayor Hurlburt has been coordinating, along with Mr. Reid from BRHS, on a mentoring project, giving students the opportunity to gather information from our local retirees on career choices. This may become a pilot project for future endeavours and will target grades 9, 10 and 11 students. A list of interested retirees is being compiled as there is a wealth of education and expertise in our local community.

Excitement is building as the P-12 school initiative is progressing along, now waiting on documentation on the site selection for the building, and the hope that the new facility will attract new families to our town.

### **New Business:**

Lions Winterfest: This event will be held February 14, 15, and 16<sup>th</sup> 2014. Mike advised he running club group is organizing a 5K run, may be as many as 200 runners with participants from other communities and will start at 9:00 AM Feb. 15/14 at the Fire Hall.

Mike will be contacting businesses asking for gift certificates or merchandise for draws at the end of the event.

Mayor Hurlburt gave an outline of events:

**Friday Feb. 14/14** – Candlelight Parade and bonfire with hot chocolate at Jubilee Park.

**Saturday Feb.15/14-** The 5 K run starting at 9:00 Am at Fire Hall

Pancake breakfast at Lions Hall ending at noon.

Free Skate at Arena 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Family Skate – 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Adult Skate – 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Sledding and snowshoeing at Valley View starting at noon

**Sunday Feb.16/14** – Church Services

There is also a possibility there may be a large curling bonspiel during the weekend. Posters will be out next week as soon as the schedule is finalized. Neil advised the Chamber will proudly support this event.

Maureen Publow, owner of Publows Consulting Income Tax and bookkeeping business on Queen St., presented an outline on the program she has been running through PeopleWorx called the Start Program. This is for older workers who are now ready for employment. They offer great skills, attitudes, and work ethics. If a business hires one or more of these workers, payroll incentives are available, lasting up to 6 months. Hours of work may be negotiable due to our location.

**Tourism** – Kirk advised the grant applications have been submitted for the VIC and information on these should be received by April 2014.

Mike advised there are major financial contributions from the Federal Gov't available for tourism ideas for the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Canada in 2017, something we should be preparing for now. Mike will forward information to Mayor Hurlburt and Neil Cook.

Short discussion held on current signage in Town. Mayor Hurlburt advised Council will be discussing this matter in the future, and that the Town has to be diligent in putting in place a consistent idea for signage.

Next Meeting February 20, 2014 at the Pullman Room, End of the Line Pub.