

Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce General Meeting May 22, 2014

Attendance: Neil Cook, Mayor & Rita Hurlburt, Anne Crossman, Gary Olsvik, Gerry Bezanson, Tim Habinski, Clark Morris, Jason Rice, Kirk Lycett, Scott BNS, Teresa Cranton

Regrets: Andy Kerr

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by chair Neil Cook with a welcome to all.

Minutes of April 2014 meeting were approved.

From The Town:

Mayor Hurlburt advised the first meeting with the County and the transition co-ordinator has taken place regarding the dissolution of the Town.

**The increase from Valley Waste is 11.5%, down from 20%.
Fall cleanup and leaf collection may not be offered in the near future due to increased costs associated with these. Spring cleanup will continue. This recommendation has been sent to councils for ratification and notice will be forwarded to households.**

Tourism:

Kirk advised one grant has been received in the amount of \$2073 to cover one student. There is an outstanding balance owing from SWN in the amount of \$410.53. County has approved \$1500 for the VIC and still waiting on approval from the Town of Bridgetown. BACC usually contributes \$1800 per year. If we maintain grant from the Town we will possibly make it work. Potential season will be July, August and open for Ciderfest weekend, approx. 10 weeks. We will plan to go forward. Moved by Kirk to accept, 2nd by Gary, m/c.

Ciderfest Float:

Mayor Hurlburt spoke with Steve Clayton and the float is at the old Firehall. It would be okay for local events but not for Kentville or Digby. We could ask the school to do the painting and decorating or

leave until November to update, possibly using school resources. Mayor Hurlburt will take the lead to re-invent the float.

Membership:

2011-12 - Dues paid \$1900

2012-13 - Dues paid \$ 980

2013-14 - 8 paid members to date

Will follow up with Mike and Tracy on development of member info.

At this time we should not consider an increase in dues. Neil will follow up.

Ciderfest:

A committee will possibly be needed to formulate guidelines for business decorating for the festival, maybe offer incentives. Tim advised that advertising is not sufficient for our festival. We should contact Wolfville regarding the Deep Roots Festival as it happens after Ciderfest. Bridgetown could possibly be used as an outlying stage for concert entry to this festival.

Rita advised the Historical Society would like a little more life on Queen St. during Ciderfest as they were open last year and few people attended. Ideas are being outlined at this time for many events.

An invitation was sent to the Chamber for the O2 dinner being held at BRHS on June 6, 2014. Neil and Jason will attend.

Budget Update:

Draft copy of budget tabled for next meeting allowing executive to review.

Operating balance: \$ 5619.77

Good Will Account - \$ 35.11

Rita did a presentation at BRHS last week offering a list of past ambassadors and the projects they completed.

The current youth ambassador spoke on this past year. Rita left applications for students and hope to get many submissions.

No update on Chair replacement.

Next meeting June 19/14