

**BRIDGETOWN AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SOCIETY  
MINUTES  
DIRECTORS MEETING – OCTOBER 17, 2013**

**Business arising from minutes: Andy Kerr, Neil Cook, and Mike Gushue met with Town CAO Rachel Turner and Mayor Hurlburt regarding the impact of cutbacks at the Town. Meeting was well received with the support from the Chamber acknowledged. Rachel will compose a newsletter advising where the Town is at this time, what actions are starting and formulating, engaging broad community perspective.**

**Gary spoke with Jenny Hardy regarding the insurance offered by the Chamber. There are no drastic changes to the coverage, it is important to realize the benefits offered by their coverage, along with a portion of the premiums given back to the Chamber.**

**Correspondence – None**

**Finances:**

**As of October 16, 2013 Operating balance is \$4141.16  
Receivables- \$ 1024 (amount owing from SouthWest Nova for VIC)**

**Ciderfest:**

**Outstanding receivables - \$2375.00  
The wrap-up meeting was held with discussions for moving forward.  
Gary advised the seed money for next year may be at \$1000  
There will be a meeting on November 5, 2013 at 5:15 pm at the Pullman Room to get started on next years' festival and form committees. All but one of the previous Ciderfest committee members are staying on.**

**Tourism:**

**The Chamber gave \$1740 towards VIC operation. The Town gave \$1250, down from previous year, leading to early closure.**

**From The Town:**

- Mayor Hurlburt advised the Lions Club is focused on a major fundraiser to build a bus shelter near Town Hall. More information to follow.**
- Winterfest will be held on February 14, 15, and 16th 2014. There will be a parade of lights on Friday, leading to the bonfire at Jubilee Park. On Saturday there will be a Free Skate at the Rink and activities at Valley**

**View Park. Church Service will be held on Sunday.  
Other ideas are coming forward, which may include a running event. Teresa will attend a Lions meeting to discuss events of interest.**

- **Mayor Hurlburt has been in touch with an Emera contact regarding Xmas lighting and will bring ideas forward at next meeting.**

#### **New Business:**

**New Town map is now at Jubilee Park. A copy of the pocket map was circulated for review.**

**There is a need to increase membership in the BACC, with major key being paid memberships, as these funds go to support the VIC and other projects. We currently have 40 members with only 18 members paid. The average annual income from membership is \$2000.**

**Andy advised lack of notification to members may be the key in delay of payment. He will continue to focus on electronic billing, and upgrading the billing system for the Chamber.**

**New members Paul Blake (Salvation Army) and Scott (Scotiabank) advised they joined the Chamber to be better involved in the community and meet new people.**

**Neil circulated a draft information sheet outlining FAQ's on the BACC, its mission and benefits to the community. Members will read and offer input on other important benefits.**

#### **Moonlight Madness:**

**Event will be held on November 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>, aligning with the Bridgetown High School Fair. Transportation will be provided to take shoppers to all businesses.**

**Teresa suggested businesses should have their major sale items in the evening instead of during the day, keeping shoppers in Town during the evening event. She also suggested having a points card which would be stamped at each business, with a prize or discounted merchandise for a full card. The next step will be to engage the business community in this idea.**

#### **Alignment with other Chambers:**

**Discussion on the benefits of aligning with other chambers or Boards of Trade, such as the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce, was held.**

**Gary suggested that another body, such as the above, may not have the same interest in supporting local businesses in our Town.**

**Mike attended a meeting with Annapolis Valley Chamber, with the theme being co-operation between each society, getting involved in economic**

**Development.**

**A suggestion to have our Chair or a member of the BACC meet with or attend a meeting of other Boards of Trade or Chambers and have them attend on of our meetings, might prove beneficial.**

**Wendy Tupper Retiring:**

**Thoughtful Crafts and Flowers will be closing October 24, 2013 as Wendy is retiring after 40 years. Members of the BACC will meet at noon on Oct.24/13 to offer best wishes to Wendy.**

**Mike Gushue suggested we write a letter of congratulations to our MLA on his election as Premier of NS. Neil will compose this.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05 AM**