

BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 15, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Andy Kerr, Gary Olsvik, Neil Cook, Steve Raftery, John Ray Lawrence, Gerry Bezanson, Carol Carter, Clark Morris, Norm Hamerin, Dan Forbes, Art Marshall, Tim Habinski, guest Liz Morine

Meeting called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Chair Andy Kerr with a welcome to all.

Minutes of February 2012 meeting were read. A correction was noted, (the society in charge of the Bridgetown Market to be held at Jubilee Park does not have to be an entity of the Town), moved by Tim to accept minutes with the correction, 2nd by Neil, m/c

Correspondence:

Progress magazines were available.

Reports:

Finance – Operating accounts is currently at \$7739.76

Good Samaritan Acct. - \$ 35.06

Holiday Draw Acct. – \$2175.37 (this is the profit realized from the previous draw). Gary recommended providing the Lions Club with \$500 of this profit for their efforts in the sale of tickets, motion by Dan to accept this recommendation, 2nd by John Ray, m/c.

The current holiday draw is underway with posters in merchants windows in town, a calling committee is in place., an email list has been built with approximately 250 contacts, there has been a promotion in the Spectator , Tim advised Lewis would include an ad in the Reader to promote sales. To date there are 21 tickets sold, the BACC will make a decision in April as to continuing with the draw.

Ciderfest

The committee met early this month to solicit ideas, including using the River as a draw and also including an orchard tour. The theme has been rolled out with logo stickers provided to all merchants. Gary advised concrete details for this event will be in place next meeting. Steve advised there may be Queens Jubilee funding available if we tailor an event to meet the requirements. He will forward the information to the committee.

Gary moved for acceptance of reports, 2nd by Dan, m/c.

Tourism

Student grant applications have been received.

Town

The budget is being completed with a finalization in early June.

The lot next to Town Hall will be considered during capital budget planning.

Steve is currently working with the Regional Library on ideas for a storybook walk. Health & Wellness has provided funding to help expand the playground at Jubilee Park with Interplay installing an additional play area.

Old Business

The Cluster Business Education started this week, there was not enough response to hold a class in Bridgetown. There are two courses running at ADEDA. Andy attended the Tuesday course and advised it was well received.

New Business

Carol advised there were 28 people in attendance at the meeting held for the Outdoor Market at Jubilee Park. The market will continue on Tuesdays. Carol has been in touch with Farm Markets of NS and a co-op will be formed to operate the market. Board members to date include Carol, Rachel Edwards and Chantelle MacKinnon. A suggestion for new signage promoting the market was discussed and using the current picket fence signs at both ends of town for market advertising was also suggested.

The Salvation Army will celebrate 125 years in Bridgetown in 2012

MacDonald Chisholm Insurance is now offering rates to Chamber members

Tim advised the BACC should consider placing an ad in the Reader focusing on local businesses and their asset to the Town, promoting both businesses and also citizens who give back to their community. Make it a spotlight on Bridgetown.

Our guest, Liz Morine from ADEDA gave a brief overview of the business plan for ADEDA. She also spoke on the "intent to withdraw" letter issued by the County, as this creates a funding loss, which is currently hanging over their heads. Andy will draft a letter to Councillor Wayne Fowler advising the BACC would like to see this letter withdrawn by the County.

Motion by Tim to adjourn at 9:15 am