

## Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce General Meeting February 21, 2013

Attendance: Chair Andy Kerr, Gary Olsvik, Gerry Bezanson, Heather Marshall, Carol Carter, Brian Smith, Steve Raftery, Clark Morris, Art Marshall, Mike Gushue, Jason Rice, Dan Forbes

Regrets: Kirk Lycett

Meeting called to order at 8:00 A.M, by chair Andy Kerr with a welcome to all.

Minutes of December 20, 2012 meeting were read and approved.

### **Business Arising:**

ADEDA course is now being offered, there are currently 16 participants with capacity for 20. Information on ADEDA website

Welcome to Brian Smith, Bridgetown Taxi, new member of the chamber.

P-12 School – The scoping project is now completed and the design and architectural work is now out for tender. There are some concerns with having a two-storey structure, with the age of primary children, etc. There is presently a \$12,000.000 price tag, but cost may exceed this even with a new building, however there will be nothing definite until fall and in the meantime the elementary school will be maintained to current status.

Hops Microbrewery- Steve attended a meeting in Lawrencetown regarding this venture, with 20 people in attendance, mostly agriculture persons. The consensus was that the Annapolis Valley would be a great place to start this project as there are many major farms in our area who could possibly benefit. Steve suggested it may be an idea to have agriculture persons attend the BACC meetings. ADEDA has done a great job promoting this venture.

Trade Mission to NB – Information just came together this week and there is room for 1-2 businesses to attend on March 7 & 8, 2013. Local businesses would be linked with businesses in NB, allowing the opportunity to meet other businesses in the same category.

### **Correspondence**

Usual collection of magazines.

### **Reports-**

Finance - Operating balance as of February 20, 2013 is \$6965.23

There are no outstanding payables.

Outstanding Receivables - \$540

Good Samaritan Acct. - \$35.11

Motion by Gary to accept report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather, m/c.

### **Ciderfest-**

Seed money for Ciderfest is \$2936.00.

Plans are moving along with monthly meetings, next meeting March 12/13.

Committee has been talking to businesses re: new ideas for the festival.

Volunteers are needed to run this event and to shadow committee members also. Logos will be popping up during next few months. Dan advised that ScotiaBank may be able to help out with a fundraising event.

Call Shirley Peebles to get information on volunteering.

### **Tourism-**

Kirk has prepared the paperwork for the Town to apply for the grant for the VIC

### **From The Town-**

Steve advised a meeting between Bridgetown Town Council and County Council proved to be very positive and open with a renewed spirit.

The Town will finish up involvement at the end of March 2013 in the Active Living program, but will try to maintain some programs such as the after school program. Middleton will try and do something on their own.

There is no word yet on the Regional Enterprises Network to replace ADEDA.

The Town is currently working on the budget to be delivered in June or July. There are no major issues to be dealt with.

The Leaders of Today program will be held at the Bridgetown High School on March 2/13, involving schools from all over the county.

Municipal Housing Corp- Some funding has been received for the trails project linking the ARC, Mtn. Lea Lodge and Crosskill Court. A fundraising gala for this project will be held at the Falcourt Inn in the fall. The old cemetery discovered at Mtn. Lea Lodge will be included as part of the trail.

Neil is working on the provincial housing strategy to present to the community, getting input for expansion for affordable housing units.

**Mike Gushue** attended a meeting with the economic committee appointed by Premier Darrell Dexter, held in Digby Feb. 20/13. This was an opportunity to have conversations between ADEDA, fishery , forest, mink, and agriculture industry representatives, value added products playing a major role in the local economy, many doing business with China.

**Transportation** – Clark presented short report on the transportation issue. Currently the buses do not serve the downtown area, and information from business is needed to determine if there is a need for the bus service downtown. With alternatives such as taxi, etc. it does not seem that the loss of Acadia Bus Lines has had a negative impact on local business, however there should be greater collaboration between public transit services and train services.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 AM.