

BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MINUTES OF MEETING APRIL 19, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Chair Andy Kerr, Heather Marshall, Gerry Bezanson, Carol Carter, Steve Raftery, Tim Habinski, Mayor Fowler, Clark Morris, Jason Rice, Kirk Lycett, Marion Tanner, Norm Hamerin, regrets from Dan Forbes, Neil Cook, Gary Olsvik. Guests Jennifer D'Aubin, Rachel Edwards, Nancy Godfrey

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by Chair Andy Kerr with a welcome to all.

Minutes of March 2012 meeting were read and approved. Andy advised minutes should be read by all on the website before meeting, with approval at meeting.

Business Arising

A letter was sent to Councillor Wayne Fowler by the BACC advising our support for ADEDA and to ask the County to withdraw its "Intent to Withdraw" letter sent to ADEDA.

Andy also advised that ADEDA has not yet received its federal funding.

Committee Reports

Finance report not available due to the absence of Gary

Holiday Draw has been cancelled due to lack of ticket sales. The BACC will continue to review this effort and all monies have been forwarded to purchasers.

Membership dues are now due, based on last years lists. The BACC is currently working on an automatic billing system with notification online for payment.

Tourism

Word on student grant should be received early May. Joanne Kittell will continue to work at VIC for summer

Town of Bridgetown

Steve advised the Active Living fair is being planned for June 6, 2012. He is also currently working with groups at Mountain Lea Lodge and ARC

Plans are in place for the gazebo and walking trails, with funding available for these projects.

The music series will be held again during this summer at Jubilee Park and Mountain Lea Lodge.

Steve will be meeting with representatives from Katimavak, a program dedicated to young volunteers helping those in need in communities across Canada, to discuss how to proceed as their funding has been cancelled in the Federal budget.

Mayor Fowler advised council met last week and has approved the BDC for dormitory facilities.

May 9, 2012, there will be a provincial meeting at the Fire Hall for candidates vying for municipal council. It is very important for Bridgetown and the future of all towns in our county, as to who is elected in the county. He also advised that Bridgetown and area has won the model community award.

Work on the Town budget is continuing.

If reference to the above, Andy suggested we cannot underestimate the qualifications required for Town Councillors as the right people are necessary to make and maintain a model community.

BDC, Bay Road

An open house is planned for the near future with a tour of the facility. The Soccer field is in place and work is being done on proposals for housing and development of a sports academy on site, hopefully attracting students to attend the sports programs. There will be a regimented routine for these students, co-ed being discussed also. This will allow additional time for the arena and other facilities, including additional teachers at the High School. Grants have been received to allow soccer clinics with other grant applications in place for many programs. B&B fitness will also be moving into the facility. The goal for operation is September 2013 for Academy.

Old Business

The first two courses of the Cluster Business Education graduated last week. There were 22 attendees for both courses making this venture very successful. Other courses will be offered in future.

Sign Law Update

Andy sat with county council regarding the current signage laws. There is an opportunity to write new laws for signage which would allow equality for all businesses. An audit will be done by the BACC to address current compliance and to promote Town and area. Andy will enlist people to sit on this committee to address this audit.

Outdoor Market Report.

There is now a board of directors for the market. Rachel Edwards is market manager and reports to the board. Jennifer D'Aubin is president of the market. There are currently 18 permanent registered vendors, others will be casual. The first market is May 15/12, from 11am to 3pm., with entertainment from 12 noon to 1 pm. The fee is \$75 for the season (22 markets), supply your own table. Casual fee is \$10 per market. There will be booths for non-profit organizations available. Email: manager@bridgetownfarmersmarket.com

Welcome Wagon

Discussion held regarding this program which has not been run for the past couple years. It used to be partnered with the Lions Club. A group is presently updating information on this with the possibility of the BACC partnering in this effort.

Logo Presentation

Nancy Godfrey presented samples of the Town logo she has designed. A beautiful and fresh logo which was well received by all in attendance.

Andy will be in touch with members regarding date for the AGM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 am.