

Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce General Meeting December 20, 2012

Attendance: Andy Kerr, Dan Forbes, Jason Rice, Neil Cook, Mayor Horace Hurlburt, Gary Olsvik, Clark Morris, Janice Gattie, Mike Gushue, Joy O'Neil, ADEDA Members

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

Minutes of November 15, 2012 meeting were read and approved.

Business arising from minutes:

Full funding did not come through for building a new P-12 school, however funds were received for the engineering scope of current building. Any big announcement for this project will be announced during Spring election.

Moonlight Madness: attendance was very good at this event and most businesses were happy with the response. Comments were received on the lack of decorations on Queen St. and this will be addressed in the future, more decorations making a greater impact for visitors. Dan advised there are still bags of garlands, spotlights, etc. left over from previous years. One merchant commented on the lack of consistency for the timing when businesses should close. The BACC did not set a start or end time, leaving this up to the individual businesses. Businesses were busier than last year, a good sign of more people in town for this event.

Reports:

Finance- As of October 19/12 the operating balance was \$6431.50

Outstanding receivables - \$ 1530

Outstanding payables – between \$300 to \$500

All bills have been paid to date for Moonlight Madness

Included in balance is seed money for Ciderfest in the amount of \$3400

Ciderfest - Operating Revenue \$20,200

Expenses - \$ 16,800

The new logo for Ciderfest 2013 is “Our Orchard of Memories”

Gary suggested we find old photos of past festivals to display. There will be many new events included this year.

Motion by Gary to accept reports, 2nd by Dan, m/c

Tourism – nothing to report

From the Town – The New Years Day levee will be held from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Legion. Town Hall will be closed until January 2, 2013.

New Business: An endeavour being led by ADEDA to have a trade mission between SouthWest Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, starting with businesses going to Saint John at the end of January, possibly Monday and Tuesday. This will be a worthwhile effort for some businesses, however retail may not benefit. An information package will be forthcoming. A consultation was held in Digby with 100 people attending. ADEDA will set up meeting in NB.

Dan suggested adding local events to our website such as the Provincial Firefighters Bonspiel to be held at the Bridgetown Curling Club at the end of January 2013. Businesses should be aware of this event to allow time to prepare goody bags for participants.

Winterfest will be held on February 22 and 23rd, 2013.

Neil Cook gave a big thank you to all who participated in the success of the staff/resident dance at Mtn. Lea Lodge. He also advised there will be changes to the Board of Directors for the Housing Corp. It will now be wholly comprised of citizen representatives by Sept. 2013.

ADEDA- Joy O'Neil gave a short presentation on anyone interested in starting their own business. Workshops will be available to those interested, with 2-3 hour sessions to be held in February 2013. Joy also attended the Workplace Initiatives Division from Nova Scotia Labour and Advanced Education. A form is attached outlining the programs and services along with a form for SkillsOnlineNS. Andy advised the BACC will get this info out to our members and to those who are not aligned with a member group through news ads, website, spreading the word, etc. Access NS would be one area to place this info along with Financial institutions. Delivering package to senior students at schools, allowing parents to pick up on this info, engaging students would be paramount. Also using our Youth Ambassador program to launch this would also be beneficial providing them the skills to start.

A letter was presented from ADEDA acknowledging the BACC letter of support for the Micro Brewery project.

A letter was also presented from the County of Annapolis acknowledging receipt of two pieces of correspondence from the BACC regarding the ValuFoods issue. Andy has forwarded letters to the County to get conversation started and has not received a response at all regarding the issues presented.

Moved by Dan and 2nd by Gary to accept this correspondence for future discussion, m/c.

**Merry Xmas to all and Happy New Year.
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am.**