

**BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MINUTES OF MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2012**

Attendance: Andy Kerr, Gary Olsvik, Carol Carter, Tim Habinski, Clark Morris, Steve Raftery, Jack Skafte, Sandra O'Brien, Gerry Bezanson, Kirk Lycett, Art Marshall, Cathy Graves, Marion Tanner, Jason Rice, guest Joy O'Neill

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am with a welcome by Chair Andy Kerr, and introduction of our guest Joy O'Neill

Minutes of January 19, 2012 meeting were read and approved.

Correspondence - None

Reports

**Financial – Operating account - \$ 5759.83
Outstanding receivables in the amount of \$450
Good Samaritan account - \$ 35.06
Holiday Draw account - \$ 6662.68**

Holiday Draw -

The current holiday draw has one draw left and if the money is taken instead of the trip we will realize a profit of \$1514, making this draw successful. An agreement had been made with the Lions Club based on sales of 355 tickets. The BACC executive will make a decision on how much of the profit will be given to the Lions for their efforts. Tickets for the next draw will be printed next week as we are still waiting on license approval. Mail outs will be sent to all who purchased tickets last year and we look forward to a better year in 2012.

Ciderfest –

Next meeting will be February 27, 2012 with invitations distributed for the open house to be held at the Pullman Room at the Pub.

Moved by Gary to accept reports as presented, 2nd by Tim, m/c.

Tourism

Student applications have been submitted.

Town of Bridgetown

The closing date for nominations for volunteer award is fast approaching

Winterfest weekend has many activities planned , including activities at the Valley View Park, along with a parade. All information is posted on the Lions web site.

The Town is currently involved with a working group at Mountain Lea Lodge and ARC, helping with application for grants to assist in building the new gazebo and walking trails. A public presentation of this project will be presented.

On January 24, 2012 a meeting was held between mayors of Bridgetown, Annapolis Royal, and Middleton along with the county warden to discuss a strategy on joining services. Bridgetown council passed a motion to support this move. The County is not interested in supporting this venture. The Province has agreed to fund 50% of this study.

Art Marshall, liaison for ADEDA advised that ADEDA's business plan will be finalized next week for submission to the province the month end. The business plan draft will be shared with the BACC. Five major areas will be emphasized in the business plan, including leveraging the "ships start here" campaign.

Clark Morris has provided extensive information on the current transit issue to aid in discussions with the county. Middleton has expressed interest in these discussions and he advised that the BACC should provide a statement also, with respect shown for the service provided by Kings Transit. As all the issues are not clear, the county is forming committee to address these.

Steve advised the lot beside Town Hall is still in planning stages and possible funding.

Old Business

The first course being offered by the Cluster Bus. Education is basic computer skills and the deadline for application February 23/12. Seven participants are required to run the course.

The Riptide Rollers rollerblading team is now an entity in Bridgetown and will be using the arena to practice during the summer. This is something new and exciting and inexpensive, and tournaments will allow for increased local business. Tim will be the liaison with this group.

New Business

Lewis Falls has been approached regarding using Jubilee Park as the new location for the market as there is electricity, bathrooms, parking and a playground for children. An email has been sent to both him and Chantele MacKinnon regarding the use of this facility, as a society should be formed as an entity of the Town. Further information will be forthcoming.

The Legion will be holding an auction on April 21/12 as a fundraiser and are now campaigning for donations.

Bell High school will be coming to Bridgetown with the Band Assoc. Marion suggested having a barbecue for the billets. BACC sponsored this event in 2010. Marion will provide the schedule for their stay.

Our guest speaker, Joy O'Neill presented information on retail merchandising program. There is a need to help retail business compete in the environment, with more big box stores moving into the area. The program allows for retailers to make their stores more customer friendly, by sprucing up their interiors, etc. Ideas will be pitched as a Tourism initiative to allow for funding. Applications for funding will be forwarded within the next few weeks. Joy suggested forwarding an email to her if interested in being a participant in this program with a specialist, Melanie Talgaard, recommended by Spring Garden Merchants Assoc. providing information. Suggestions such as promoting small business and there uniqueness should be foremost in this program.

Adjournment at 9:00 am. Next meeting March 15, 2012