

BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Attendance: Andy Kerr, Tim Habinski, John Ray Lawrence, Dick Campbell, Clark Morris, Steve Raftery, Dan Forbes, Gary Olsvik, Gerry Bezanson, Mayor Art Marshall, Kirk Lycett, Marion Tanner, guest, Chantelle MacKinnon

Meeting called to order by Chair Kirk Lycett at 8:00 am with a welcome to all in attendance.

Minutes of January 20, 2011 meeting were read (thank you Andy). A correction was noted Kirk that the meeting with Town Hall officials will be at 7:30 on February 21, 2011 and not as previously stated. Motion by Dan to accept minutes as read, with correction, 2nd by John Ray, m/c.

An introduction of guest Chantelle MacKinnon who represents two groups in Tupperville and works closely with Carol Carter operating craft sales from local crafters.

Business arising from minutes:

The date for the holiday draw has been changed under the existing license.

Correspondence:

A letter from Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce was focusing on businesses connecting with older workers interested in returning to the workforce. Copy attached to minutes.

Committee Reports:

Financial; Treasurer Gary Olsvik advised that the BACC operating balance as of January 16, 2011 is \$5220.29

The Good Samaritan account is \$35.02

There are receivables in the amount of \$1524 still outstanding from events held in 2010.

Ciderfest: Plans are well underway for the festival in September. Cathy Graves has taken on the task of developing a downtown market concept with retailers and local growers selling their goods during Ciderfest.

The next meeting for the Ciderfest committee will be February 21, 2011.

Holiday Draw:

Clark advised the Lions Club has not had much luck in getting groups interested in selling tickets. Dick advised the Annapolis Royal Lions Club have taken 25 tickets to sell and the Bridgetown Lions Club will contact other Lions Clubs to see if there is

an interest. John Ray advised that advertising on the AVR Lions Club Radio Bingo would be an asset as this is a very popular event.

Chantal suggested setting up a table at the market in Tupperville.

Tourism:

Grant applications for the VIC are due end of February. A request for two positions will be forwarded and hopefully we will get one. The county application has been completed. Kirk will contact JoAnn Kittel to ask if she is still interested in operating the VIC this year.

The Valley Vixens Provincials will be held March 25, 2011 weekend. A welcome from the BACC will be in the booklet. Posters will be placed in business windows welcoming all visitors and players, and welcome signs will also be erected at entrances to Town.

ADEDA:

There were 18 attendees only at the meeting with ADEDA held at the Legion and very few were business owners. Gary advised he thought the format surprised those in attendance as ADEDA employees did not want to discuss the ongoing battles with the County. Their business proposal was presented and they accepted input from those wishing to offer suggestions.

Mayor Marshall gave a summary of the proposed budget for ADEDA based on commercial aspect of each town, Digby, Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown, Middleton. He also advised he is stepping down as coordinator of the working group for ADEDA. ADEDA's operational budget is exacerbated by the current upset and there is no provision for continuation. Those members interested in having an RDA will get together to try and accomplish a positive next step.

New Business:

- Carrie Schell will be the new race director for the Bridgetown Triathlon
- There will be a meeting regarding Town Water Rates held in council chambers on March 21, 2011 with the NSURB in attendance to respond to questions.
- Tim advised he and others held a brainstorming session at the Pub to discuss potential projects for the revitalization of Bridgetown's economy. A committee was nominated to sort through ideas, with at least seven projects of interest. This information and idea session , with time and date, was sent to BACC members via email through our website, from Town Hall. Dan advised he was very upset at the way this was handled as it was not sanctioned by the BACC. He suggested that any group interested in working for the greater good of the Town should work in conjunction with or as a sub-committee of the BACC as all business listed on our website are paying membership dues. If we work together as one, instead of separate groups, accomplishing goals may be easier.

There was a motion by Tim to send an invitation to this committee to join the BACC as members, 2nd by Kirk, m/c

-Mayor Marshall advised there are discussions ongoing regarding a Public Transit Scenic Site for Annapolis County, Town of Digby and District of Digby. The expansion of public transit would be beneficial to all towns and communities as the route would include Annapolis Royal, through Hampton to Bridgetown. A meeting will be held in the near future on the opportunity of supplementing the existing transit service.

- Bridgetown Lawn Bowling Club will be hosting the Atlantic Bowl, including Quebec on September 9, 10, 11, 2011. This is a huge event for the town.**

Motion by Dan to adjourn at 9:15 a.m.