

**BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 19, 2012**

Attendance: Andy Kerr, Gerry Bezanson, Gary Olsvik, Heather Marshall, Dan Forbes, Cathy Graves, Kirk Lycett, Clark Morris, Jason Rice, Tim Habinski, Sandra O'Brien, Neil Cook, Mayor Fowler, Art Marshall, Steve Raftery

Meeting called to order at 8:04 am with a welcome from Chair Andy Kerr

Minutes of December 15, 2011 were read and approved.

Correspondence

Tim presented a letter from RipTide Roller Blade organization regarding time schedule at the Bridgetown Arena for their practices.

Reports

**Finance – General Account has a balance of \$2635.25
Accounts Receivable in the amount of \$1363.32
Good Samaritan Acct. - \$35.05
Holiday Draw Acct. - \$ 10,245.72**

There are two draws left in this term of the Holiday Draw and the projection is \$1461 to be made.

Holiday Draw- An executive meeting was held to look at options for the 2012 draw, such as a reduction in prize structure, etc. A recommendation was made to move ahead with the draw at the present format, including certificates in the amount of \$15 as extra giveaways. A committee of 5-7 people is required to keep this event prosperous as a fund-raiser. A suggestion was made to promote the event by specifying what the monies raised actually support.

Motion by Dan to proceed with the Draw at the current format, with other payment options such as VISA being accepted. 2nd by Kirk, m/c

Insurance

Directors and officers insurance coverage is \$550, same as last year. Motion by Gary to accept this insurance policy, 2nd by Cathy m/c.

Tourism

Kirk advised he is waiting on the government website to be up and running to allow applications for student to be presented.

Town of Bridgetown

Steve advised nominations are now open for volunteer awards

Mayor Fowler and Council met on January 18, 2012. CAO is presently updating Town policies, eliminating some, deleting some. There will also be a by-law review as some of the by-laws date back to 1933.

A draft of the financial statement has been completed and council is optimistic about the upcoming budget. Tax Rate for this year will hopefully set by June 2012. The Minister and senior staff attended the council meeting. Mayor Fowler advised that staffing for the Town is a priority and are looking for people to run for Council positions. Elections are essential for the Town's future with forward thinking people involved.

BCRA meetings have been held and committees have been filled, excepting the Heritage Committee. An audit committee is also very important.

Cathy asked Mayor Fowler if there will be changes to the by-laws allowing business owners who do not live in town the right to vote in Town elections. As this is a municipal by-law the BACC will look at gathering information on this issue.

Old Business

Cluster Business Education is an effort by the Federal Gov't spending money on business education allowing small businesses to educate employees. A working group is in place and will start consulting with business owners.

ADEDA- The business planning program is taking place, Mr. Marshall will forward a copy of the plan to BACC advising the lead activity should be the ship building program.

New Business

Youth Ambassador – More applicants are required as we had only one in 2011. Discussion on how the business community may add more incentive to this program, such as offering life skills such as social media, accounting, mentoring, etc. Andy will put together ideas and forward to BACC members. Shay Goreham, our current ambassador is working on a mural for the back of the Sears building, including gardens, picnic tables, etc.

Signage- East & West of Town. This is an issue that must be addressed. A committee will be arranged by BACC to discuss this, maybe using this as a task for the Youth Ambassador. Shay is currently working on mural on the back of the Sears Bldg., also a garden area with picnic tables.

Ciderfest The theme for the 2012 festival is “Barrels of Fun”, with the logo “Bridgetown, A Good Pick”. The committee will host an open house on February 27, 2012 at the Pub for Ciderfest to gain input from the community along with possible volunteers.

The BACC has been invited to sit with Mr. Greg Kerr and Mr. Peter MacKay at a pre-budget consultation meeting to be held at the ABCC, to gather information from local businesses for the upcoming Federal Budget.

Dan advised that Steven Skafte, a local young entrepreneur is presently looking for a rental facility approx. 600 sq. ft., to showcase local art and student art, etc. He is a photographer interested in youth development. He is currently at 4 Queen St. All display items sold will be 100% profit to the owner. Dan suggested the BACC might offer a financial donation to assist Steven in getting this business started.

Andy made a motion “in principal” for a donation, once the BACC directors have had a chance to speak with Steven regarding this venture.

Neil advised that the ARC and Mountain Lea Lodge have made plans for future expansion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 am by Chair Andy Kerr

Next meeting will be February 16, 2012