

BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

Attendance: Andy Kerr, Gary Olsvik, Gerry Bezanson, Kirk Lycett, Horace & Rita Hurlburt,, Steve Raftery, Carol Carter, Jason Rice, Heather Marshall, Tim Habinski, Norm Hamelin, Janice Gattie, Jim & Mary Steele, Mr. & Mrs. Richard White

Meeting called to order at 8:01 am by chair Andy Kerr with a welcome to all.

The new chamber members were introduced, Janice Gattie who has moved here from Ontario and owns and operates a child care service called Kiddy Kare Daycare Services Inc., in Toronto, and who is also running in the election for councillors in October, and Mr. & Mrs. Richard White who are in the process of purchasing the Annapolis River Campground from Ken Fraser.

Minutes of April 2012 meeting were presented, motion by Kirk to accept minutes, 2nd by Tim, m/c.

Correspondence – standard pile of magazines and flyers FYI

Reports –

Finance: As of September 19, 2012 our operating account has a balance of \$8076.41, which includes income from Ciderfest activities. Monies are still being received for advertising in the booklet, etc. and there are still some bills to be received.

Good Samaritan Account – Balance \$35.07

Ciderfest: The weather cooperated allowing for excellent attendance at all events. The Apple Pie contest realized a profit of \$730. Gary advised he has received very positive comments from those who attended, a very successful festival put on by a dedicated committee of volunteers. The current committee has agreed to stay in place for the 30th anniversary of Ciderfest in 2013.

On behalf of the Chamber, Andy thanked Gary and his committee for all their hard work making this Ciderfest one of the better festivals to date.

Motion by Gary to accept reports as presented, 2nd by Carol, m/c.

Tourism: The VIC is now closed as of September 16, 2012. Even with reduced operation time this year, the VIC saw an increase in tourists using this facility. Kirk advised the inspection of the VIC passed with flying colors, the Open House was well received. JoAnn was a very dedicated manager with excellent help from her employee and realized numerous accomplishments with a very limited budget. She will be missed as she and her family have moved back to Ontario. A detailed report by JoAnn is attached to the minutes.

There was a brief discussion as to how to improve the VIC for the future.

From The Town: News- The new CAO for the Town, Rachel Taylor, was hired on August 7, 2012.

There will be an election for both councillors and mayor to be held in October 2012. A meeting is presently being organized by the Town and the BACC for chamber members who are also running for office so they may share their position statements. The time and date for this will be determined in the very near future.

Steve advised the County has decided not to continue as a partner for the Physical Activity program. At present Bridgetown is still partnering with Annapolis Royal and Middleton to keep this program running, with an evaluation to be completed in the new year.

New Business: Three new businesses have opened in Bridgetown this past month.

Eggplant Café on Queen St., next to the library opened September 3, 2012 by owner/operator Chantelle MacKinnon

Source Express has opened in the Bridgetown Pharmasave, owner Kirk Lycett

Adaptations, a new gift store has also opened on Queen St., owner Kirk Lycett. Kirk also advised he has completed renovations of four apartments on the upper floor of this business and two of these units have been rented to residents of the ARC who are ready to move into the community, with limited supervision.

A warm welcome to all these new businesses, bringing a much needed boost to our downtown core.

Moonlight Madness: The date for this year will be November 30 & Dec. 1, 2012 Moved by Andy to accept this date for the Moonlight Madness, 2nd by Kirk, m/c

GetReady4 Ships: In an effort by ADEDA, a consulting firm has been hired. This group will be forwarding an information package to businesses, with forms to complete, gathering information which will be used in an effort to allow local business to gain work from the many opportunities presented by the ship building contracts.

Last date for the Bridgetown Market at Jubilee Park will be October 9, 2012. The group will be offering a winter market at the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Salvation Army in Bridgetown is celebrating its 125th year and will be holding a celebration dinner at the Lions Hall on Sept. 29, 2012. Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased at the Thrift Store on Queen St. Congratulations on this amazing milestone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 am. Next meeting October 18, 2012