

# **BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## **Minutes of meeting November 17, 2011**

**Attendance:** Chair Andy Kerr, Gary Olsvik, Heather Marshall, Tim Habinski, Dan Forbes, Gerry Bezanson, Neil Cook, Steve Raftery, Clark Morris, Guests Salvation Army

**Welcome by Chair Andy Kerr**

**Minutes of October 20, 2011 meeting were read, motion by Tim to accept minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Neil, m/c**

### **Correspondence**

**A notice regarding the Mountain Lea Lodge Christmas Party to be held on December 17, 2011 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**A letter from Mike Taylor at Bridgetown Home Hardware was read, focusing on the “Faces of Business”. Enclosed is a sample of the sign located at the Home Hardware showcasing the employees who work there. Mike suggests all businesses in the Town of Bridgetown should follow this example, starting a new chapter in the business sector.**

**Ladies night will be held at Home Hardware, ValuFoods and End of the Line Pub on November 18, 2011. Bring your receipt from businesses to receive a half price beverage at the Pub.**

### **Reports**

#### **Financial**

**Operating account is currently at \$3294.50**

**Holiday Draw account is \$16,246.90**

**Good Samaritan Account - \$ 35.05**

**There are still outstanding receivables in the amount of \$1897, with \$601 from Ciderfest advertising for a total of \$2498.**

**Holiday Draw- Gary met with the Lions Club and they will discuss at their general meeting on November 20, 2011 if they will operate the draw in 2012/2013. Economic factors are hindering ticket sales, however the BACC will run the draw if the Lions Club does not. Discussions will be held regarding new ideas to promote this event.**

**The projection for the Holiday Draw to end of March 2012 is a break-even point.**

#### **Ciderfest**

**A meeting will be held on November 20, 2011 by the Ciderfest committee to discuss plans for 2012.**

Motion by Gary to accept reports as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather, m/c

### Town of Bridgetown

Steve gave a short report on the forensic audit; there are still some discretionary errors in accounting as to who owes what. Council will be working on budget for next year, hopefully with no significant tax increases. Expenses for the CAO and staff will be included in the budget for next year (with a new council).

Business occupancy tax is now phased out, so the commercial business tax should be even with both. Some assets may be sold to allow for capital reserve. The Foster Lake property is one of these assets.

Nominations for the Bridgetown Area Community Spirit Awards will be in the near future, Steve is currently working on this project.

Dan advised that the Town should talk with the Herald with a positive spin instead of the terrible article and photos they published. This has been damaging to our Town. Andy suggested businesses should promote each other in a positive manner, such as the Bank of Nova Scotia winning their district award. It is up to our residents and businesses to write the next chapter of our town's story.

### Old Business

Cluster Business Education- The federal government has money available to be used in small business education, classes require seven or more employees to run. There is a survey online to learn more about this project.

### New Business – Moonlight Madness

An annex is attached. There will be an 18 passenger bus available (courtesy of Mountain Lea Lodge) to be used as Santa's Sleigh to take people to and from events' and businesses. Discussion was held regarding new events. The Firehall will be hosting a breakfast, Santa and friends will drop by.

### Axe theTax

This event will be cross-promoted in the Moonlight Madness flyer.

Joann suggested making seniors day an area event, promoting as government cheque day.

Future discussion will be held on this.

Adjourned at 9:00 am, next meeting December 15, 2011 at the Pullman Room/Pub.