

Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce
General Meeting April 21, 2015

Attendance: Neil Cook, Chantal Reid, Gerry Bezanson, Jennifer D'Aubin, Gary Olsvik, Kirk Lycett, Dan & Tracy Forbes, Jason Rice, Mike Gushue, Anne Crossman

Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM by Chair Neil Cook.

Minutes of March 2015 meeting were read and approved.

New Business:

AGM committee has everything in place for the evening gala. There will be approximately 120 people in attendance with Premier Stephen McNeil as guest speaker. Neil will forward copy of agenda to directors.

Dan advised adding Jon Marshall to agenda to speak on behalf of the O2 group and the award he has recently received. The O2 group is donating a large portion of the evening for serving, etc. The Scotiabank will match the monies received from the sale of tickets to the Food Bank. The BACC will also donate a monetary gift to the Food Bank on behalf of our premier. Dress will be business casual. Dan also suggested people could come early to view the new fire truck, etc.

Kirk will provide a report by Wednesday April 22/15 with slate of directors for election of new executive for the BACC.

Chantal will be giving an interview on CBC Radio next week and will mention the BACC as an ongoing governing body in Bridgetown.

Ciderfest

Plans are well underway for the festival. The new logo was presented and will be showcased in business windows in the near future. A suggestion was made to tag the logo advising festival sponsored by the BACC. Volunteers and financial support are needed as most funding is provided by businesses and local advertising. The BACC will consider ideas for a fundraiser to help raise money.

Annapolis Valley Regional Library

The Library committee have begun negotiations with the Town of Berwick regarding a new facility as they have been extensively lobbied by Kings County for this facility. Why is our county not fighting for this facility to remain here. The BACC should ask questions as to where the money is coming from, (federal, provincial, municipal?) and are funds being used to take from one small town to give to another. A letter will be sent to the County and to the media to voice our displeasure at the loss of this business in our area and why very little is being done to keep it. Many of the employees are from the local area, so what will the human cost be? We will also request a meeting with our MLA and Greg Kerr.

An RFP has been issued by the County for the space previously occupied by the Eggplant Café and The Friends of the Library has expressed interest in using the space as a meeting area. Discussion was held as to the best solution for this space, hopefully another business. More time should be provided to get interest in this location and the County economic development officer should be looking for viable business interests to allow for rental income. Gary advised arranging a meeting with the County council to discuss alternatives and to have a discussion also with the Friends of the Library regarding the economic side of this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 AM.

Next meeting May 21, 2015