

**BRIDGETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2016**

Attendance: Jason Rice, Gerry Bezanson, Clark Morris, Anne Crossman, Gary Olsvik, Caroline Perriman, Dan Harvey, Jerry Publow, Steve Clayton, Kirk Lycett, Paul Blake

Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM by vice-chair Jason Rice with a welcome to all. Minutes from the May 2016 meeting were presented, motion by Kirk, 2nd by Jason to accept minutes as presented, m/c.

Business Arising;

Discussion was held regarding speakers for upcoming evening meetings. Anne will check with Jane Nicholson from the Annapolis Rural Investment Opportunity to see if she is available for November 3, 2016. Another suggestion was to have someone from the Real Estate Markets to offer an overview.

More notice is required for the evening meetings, membership should be advised by email more than once.

New Business:

A meet and greet with District 3 candidates was held at the Legion and two of the candidates, David Hudson and Horace Hurlburt, along with Tim Habinksi were in attendance. The current councillor, Wayne Fowler did not attend. There were forty people in attendance and questions were given to candidates from cards written by attendees. This was a very successful event with good insight from each candidate. Wayne Fowler was elected for District 3.

Voter information cards were not delivered astutely by Canada Post. More information is required for people to make an educated vote.

Sue Ritchie was elected to the school board.

Dan advised that monies are being made available by the government for rural internet upgrades and this could be an avenue for advancement of ideas at meetings.

Moonlight Madness:

December 2, 2016 will be the date for Moonlight Madness. Gary suggested putting more money into this event along with the Bridgetown Bucks. Caroline advised the committee is gearing up to make the downtown more festive, including much more lights and a bigger tree, garland swags on Town Hall, banners on the bridge and encouraging businesses to decorate more, possibly with lights on outside of buildings. A formal request must be given to the County for monies available for decoration enhancement. Motion by Kirk, 2nd by Anne to accept Dec. 2/16 for Moonlight Madness.

Reports:

Financial- As of October 19, 2016 the balance is \$13,845.40. This includes money from the County in the amount of \$4040, with \$2000 for the VIC, and \$2040 for Ciderfest. There are still a few outstanding receivables.

Ciderfest:

Gary rated the festival a huge success. The Wild Axe group from Halifax was very popular and the family events had something going on all day. Due to the efforts of the Ciderfest committee and master boat builder, Steve Clayton, the cardboard race was a huge success with eighteen entries. The children's parade was also very successful with a total of 14 entries. The net loss for the festival remains at the projected \$2500. Gary advised there are minor housekeeping issues to deal with but very pleased with this year's event.

VIC:

Kyle Taylor and Haley Saunders operated the VIC and all indications point to a successful season. Kirk will receive a traffic report in the near future.

Steve Clayton advised the 15th annual Colin Chipman memorial hockey tournament will take place from Oct. 21 to Oct. 23, 2016 with eleven teams attending. All proceeds will go the Bridgetown Minor Hockey. Cathy Best is the new manager of the canteen at the arena.

There will be a Food Bank Drive held on November 5, 2016 at the Bridgetown Fire Hall, all monies received will be matched by Scotiabank. Jerry will be distributing flyers for this event.

The Christmas dinner will take place on Dec.25, 2016 at the Fire Hall. Last year dinner was served to 120 people. Jerry & Maureen Publow will be the coordinators for this event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.