



**Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce
General Meeting November 16th, 2017**

Attendance: Andy Kerr, Gary Olsvik, Jane Bezanson, Anne Crossman, John Burris, Steve Clayton, Snadra & Gerald Hackenschmidt, Nova Scotia Power Rep (Shawn Bent), Paul Blake, Kirk Lycett, Guests - Nancy Price, Rachel Brighton

Meeting called to order at 6.30pm by President Andy Kerr. He welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

Reports:

Financial – As of November 16th operating balance is \$4,425.04,

VIC:

Kirk gave report they opened on time had the same 2 students working and all went well. They upgraded with 2 computers. Ran 7 days a week and closed Ciderfest weekend. County provided \$2,000, Town Rate \$2,080, may change after next year when 5 year agreement ends. Waiting last 20% from provincial payment. The stats have not come in yet but the feeling is that they are up. Had break-in last month looks like they were after money.

Moonlight Madness Decorating:

Nancy Price said they are building on last year's decorations. Wants to pull in Granville Street and do the Bridge as well. They have ordered 18 wreaths and lights at a cost of \$471. \$491 left over in the budget from last year will cover this. There were some issues with some of the decorations last year so they are securing them and changing the placement to help with wind and vandalism. Were it is still Canada 150 the theme will be Canada 150 Truly a Canadian Christmas. County has left over flags, T Shirts glow sticks and will get it to the group to use. It was brought forth to have a contest for the best window display and have a ballot box for the community to vote for their favourite.

Gary motioned adoption of reports

Ann 2nd the motion

M/C

The County Joining the Valley REN (Regional Enterprise Network)

Andy introduced Rachel Brighton who was representing the REN. She gave an overview of the REN and how it could help Annapolis County.

- 8 partners – Middleton to Windsor
- Board of Directors has 12 members



- Province matches funding and the REN is the access to this funding.
- They have been talking up Annapolis County inside and outside of Canada even without them being members.
- The REN can get concerns to government very quickly.
- 6 staff members doing, research marketing and resources.
- Regional Marketing Research Program
- Listen to groups of Business and Chambers.
- Get access to programs, government and everything needed.
- Raising up profile of Annapolis Valley

Open discussion was held and it was agreed that Andy should go forward to a letter to the County in regards to joining the REN.

Liaison with Local service/citizen groups

Question on how we want to do include Local service groups. Do we leave on distribution list or have a person be a liaison? Was suggested that we have the groups come and do a presentation, one per meeting.

Membership in general

Have a new member – The Bridgetown and Area Food Bank.

Youth Ambassador or other such program

Andy is still waiting for everyone's ideas on how to revamp this program. Please give it some thought and send Andy your ideas.

Other Business

Community Christmas Dinner (Fire Hall)

- requesting \$150 donation

Gary moved to accept the request

Steve 2nd the motion

M/C

Jane brought forward that the Ciderfest Team was wondering if the Chamber would purchase a 20 x 40 tent that can be set up on pavement and rent it out to groups such as Ciderfest, Riverfest and other community organizations. Needs more information such as prices.

Gary brought forward that the Ciderfest Team were wondering if the Chamber would



still be doing the float. He discussed the float and how it has ran in the past and said that we would discuss this more in January.

Steve Clayton said there will be a Midget A Hockey on November 25 & 26 and projects it will bring 200 to 300 people so could be a busy weekend in and around town.

Next Meeting December 14th, 2017

Jane motioned to close the meeting

Steve 2nd motion

M/C