

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of Meeting – April 12th, 2017

Valley Heartland Board Room

7:30 am

Present: Barbara Black, Sean Lawrence, Chris Saumure, Mike Fletcher, Jean Sherman, Kristine Fair, Cy Wells, Eileen Crosbie

Council: Jeff Banks, Jay Brennan

Staff: Therese Dinelle, Heather Currie-Whiting

Regrets: Paula Inglis

Absent: Dawn Quinn, Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan

Guest: Crystale Levatte

Call to Order by President, Barbara Black, at 7:30 am

Mission Statement read by President, Barbara Black

Changes to Minutes of March 8th, 2017

None

Motion to accept Minutes of March 8th, 2017

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Second: Kristine Fair

Motion Carried

Disclosure of Monetary Interest

None

Crystale Levatte, Board of Directors

Barbara Black welcomed Crystale Levatte. Crystale was asked to give a brief account of her knowledge and background which she did. An informal vote was taken and Crystale Levatte is now a board member.

A motion to invite Crystale Levatte as a new board member for the Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce and Crystale accepted.

Moved: Cy Wells

Second: Chris Saumure

Motion Carried.

Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls

Jay Brennan – MTO approved 1.3 million to do the other half of the Beckwith St. bridge.

- Priority deferred – vacancy rebate issue – the province has offered municipalities flexibility. The Town of Smiths Falls wants the Chamber to be involved.
- T. Costello, Director re: Bill 368 – Modernizing municipality act – To change electors start time from October to November.
- Town council will be working on “A better definition of a meeting”.

Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls- continued

- New legislation from the Province requires municipalities to have an Integrity Commissioner. This person will assure all council representation will be politically correct. The way it reads anyone/anywhere can make a complaint so the council will need to provide a jurisdiction for what areas will be allowed to file complaints.
- Cindy James, Small business advisory centre – has a summer student program – were a College/University student who opens a new business will be eligible for a \$3000. Grant in 2 – lump sums of \$1500..
- Festival Events – the town has put forth a policy that the town will put in reserve 1% of town revenues towards festivals and event. Individuals will have a series of requirements to fill out in order to receive any funding from this allotment.
- A. Manhire has been working on improving the bottom line for Parks and Recreation and it has improved.
- Cost sharing of the arena involves the following municipalities – Rideau lakes - \$114,000., Montague - \$50,000., Drummond/North Elmsley and possibly Merrickville.
- Town of Smiths Falls, Ingrid Bron has put together a list of events for 2017, on website.

Council Report – Township of Rideau Lakes

Jeff Banks – The death of a council members (D. Good) leaves a seat available. The council is having a by-election on April 24th, 2017 for this seat.

- Ombudsman deficit report will be report at April 24th, 2017 meeting.
- A new welcome sign will be put up across from Smiths Falls Nissan.

Treasurer Report – Mike Fletcher

- Balance Sheet – Mike highlighted the areas and advised directors there is approximately \$29,000 will give 2.5 months of reserve.
- Income Statement – shows a loss of \$9000.
- The photocopier is an expense that could be looked at and save the Chamber money.
- Mike was thanked for the report.

Administration/Accounting

- None

Marketing Co-ordinator

Heather Whiting - Visitors guide is not being done.

- Business breakfast, Wednesday, April 26, 2017 (Mike Fletcher) – speaker from Parks Canada, re: Canada150 tourism, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Smiths Falls, ON, \$15.00 for members, \$20.00 non-members. The cost is \$12.00 per person.
- Will be hosting Breakfast Meetings the last Wednesday of every month. Topics will be Marketing, Finance, Human Resources, Local Events, A Mayor's breakfast (spring/fall), National topics. Possibly offering a \$100. Honorarium to the guest speakers. Barbara Black, RBC offered to discuss Business Succession. Possibly have an after 5 pm meeting for those who can't make the breakfast meeting.
- Barbara Black will be hosting a monthly event with Kathy Botham, Cogeco. This will help promote anything the Chamber is addressing re: events, etc.

Marketing Co-ordinator - continued

- Coupon book – is coming along – have 21 and hoping for 50.
- Member 2 Member cards are available.
- Victoria Park Campground new handout almost completed.
- Working on a post-card type handout for possible new chamber members.
- The Rideau Lakes breakfast for business recognition was delightful. Was able to meet the Rideau Lakes Chamber representative. Business recognitions were announced.
- Sent a plant to Wills Transfer for their award for one of the best ran companies in Ontario.
- Golf Tournament meeting after the board meeting. Hope to get things finalized in order to proceed with marketing. There will be jacketed members of the Irish visitors attending the golf tournament. The town has been very good at advertising the event with their correspondences.

Rideau Rendez-Vous Event – July 14, 15, 16, 2017

- At a stand-still. No information.
- Heather to contact John Maloney and find out particulars.

Victoria Park Campground Committee

Chris Saumure to setup a meeting with Art Manhire to go over the budget and talk about the revenues from the bikers.

Charity Funds – Re: Calendar 2001

- Mike was asked if the funds are available. Mike advised, yes funds are available.
- To contact the Smiths Falls Hospital Foundation and setup a day with news reporters.
- A cheque for \$1000 is to be given to the Smiths Falls Hospital Foundation.

A motion to contribute \$1000 to the Smiths Falls Hospital Foundation from the Calendar fund.

Moved: Eileen Crosbie

Second: Sean Lawrence

Motion Carried.

Curling ChiliSpiel

- Heather advised – contributions of \$810. and expenses of \$700 = \$110 income
- Discussion to host another Chili Spiel for December Christmas gathering. Heather was asked to call the Curling Club and book the date.

OCC Advocacy Meeting at Queen's Park, Toronto

- Barbara Black attended the meeting in Toronto.
- Met a lot of interesting people.
- Lots on influential people from different sectors.
- More like a pre-election debate
- Seminars had 2 people in each seminar. The topics ended up being more of a debate. No concrete information related.
- In Barbara's opinion – it was not a big benefit to the Chamber.

Downtown Parking

- Cy Wells was concerned with down town parking. The people hired to watch the metering were found to park their vehicle, give out a few tickets; return back to their car and leave. Monitoring is not adequate.
- Jay Brennan was addressed, he was not informed about the problem. Jay advised he would look into it.

Budget

- Mike Fletcher presented a budget to the board. Went through the budget and answered any questions.
- No action was taken to adopt the budget.

Job Description for Chamber Staff

Forwarded to next meeting.

Bylaws

To be addressed in the summer, 2017.

To be ready for the AGM in October, 2017.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Second: Chris Saumure

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 at 7:30 am, Valley Heartland Boardroom