

**SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Minutes of Meeting – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**7:30 a.m.**

**Present:** Barbara Black, Sean Lawrence, Chris Saumure, Cy Wells, Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan, Kristine Fair, Pat Wiseman, Jean Sherman, Eileen Crosbie

**Council:** Jay Brennan

**Staff:** Heather Whiting, Mercedes Masson

**Regrets:** Crystal LeVatte, Jeff Banks

**Absent:** Mike Fletcher, Dawn Quinn

**Guest:** Malcolm Morris & Troy Dunlop

**Call to Order by President, Barbara Black, at 7:30 a.m.**

**Mission Statement read by President, Barbara Black**

**Motion to accept Minutes of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Moved:** Chris Saumure

**Second:** Sean Lawrence

**Motion Carried.**

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None

**Beckwith Street Re-Development – Malcolm Morris & Troy Dunlop**

- Detailed description of what they are trying to achieve:
  - Make Beckwith Street a “people place.”
  - We also want to stop traffic. People don’t spend money in their cars.
- A bunch of options. Narrowed down to 3 options:
  - Angled parking
  - Parallel parking with Cycle tracks
  - Parallel parking
- Many online chat groups have evolved it into a parking issue.
- Open house November 23 well attended
- A presentation with Parsons – the importance is to shed some light on what they are trying to achieve. The purpose today was to briefly give options.
- Beckwith Street is a wide street – It gives a huge advantage
- They had received feedback from DBA members
- There were 2 parking scenarios parallel and angle
- 2013 is when the vision began of re-developing the downtown core.
- When the strategic plan was designed the Beckwith St. Re-Development was of high importance.

- Troy Dunlop talked about working on Perth's Wilson Street project – Reconstruction of Wilson street was a \$6 million renovation; Got a grant to help pay the costs.
- Parson was on board in May of this year. Have done a lot of work behind the scenes.
- Have to keep up to MTO and Provincial law and requirements.
- Had Parson look into the utilities.
  - Have very little hydro over head on Beckwith Street.
- **The angle parking scenario** – a lot of our angled parking is generous for room in each spot. There are some spaces now that don't work and shouldn't be there.
  - For example, some spaces back into crosswalks, which won't meet MTO requirements or safety standards of province.
- Director Art Manhire is leading the discussions of the library and town hall renovations
  - Campus configurations are around town hall will depend on Art Manhire's project.
- Angle parking and cycling aren't a mix.
  - Can't have cars backing out into a biking lane.
  - Can't have biker lane beside or near for angle parking.
- **Third option parallel parking** – Three lane geometry, Parsons did a review – looking at a net loss of 18 spaces. The town is exploring alternatives.
  - Looking to clarify on this
  - 120 approx. Spaces in the corridor total. 103 for parallel parking.
  - Approx. 18 spaces lost in town hall library area
- If we loose spots on main road we can make up those spaces on side streets.
- Have to take in account Pedestrian zone – making room for benches, store front room, trees, etc.
  - Trees have to be strategically placed, not to obstruct view of storefronts.
- **Cyclists safety** – when you look at both options there are pros and cons. Cycle tracks best option.
- Angle parking can be hard to get out. Parallel parking is hard to get in.
- Improve in accessibly. Greener streets, innovations to build into the redevelopment for storm sewer.
- Healthy living festival – need a street that has accommodations
- In 2018 begin with design work. February of 2019, we have to get going on storm water drains designs
  - The new storm sewer put in during summer will help.
- Tentative start date for construction 2019 April – looking at how to fund this project? Government funding?
- Economic impact on stores. Will have to be very strategic were things are placed.
- Cy Wells suggested limited parking for 2 hours
- Kristine Fair asked if the Town has plans to fix the Confederation Bridge? Confederation Bridge is a local by-pass.
  - Budget was approx. 3-million (with 2 lanes)
    - when investing in a bridge you have to keep in mind if it will be functional for the next 75yrs.
- Confederation Bridge was estimated as a \$8-10- million project – need to get funding.
- Comment period is open until 29<sup>th</sup> of December. The Chambers input would be beneficial, as it will help council to make the right decision.
  - Chamber advocate for business (open during construction)
  - Send out email/ letter to membership to give their input on Beckwith St. Re-Development

### **Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls**

- Were given a presentation by the architect for Town Hall project.
- This is on their website. What they want to know is how the phasing will work.
  - Phase 1 chamber, DBA front entrance.
  - Phase 2 – guts of town
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> phase- between town hall and library.
- The building itself is in great need. Funding is in place for the town hall project. – It's a big project.
- Confederation Bridge is also important.
- Terrilee Kelford of Cornerstone Landing Youth Services did a presentation regarding the challenges of youth in Smiths Falls
  - Some kids stay with their parents until their twenties; Although, there are kids on their own under age 18.
- Funding for the docks constructed in time for the boat.

### **Council Report – Township of Rideau Lakes**

- No representative

### **Treasurer Report – Mike Fletcher**

- No representative

### **Heather Whiting Leaving the Chamber**

- Barbara Black – before we begin the next report, as this will be Heather's last report; I would like to say on behalf of the board, that we appreciate your contributions here.

### **Marketing Coordinator – Heather Whiting**

- Just a rough copy of the events for next year.
- Most are suggestions. will need to get confirmation for some events.

### **Annual General Meeting – Barbara Black / Kristine Fair**

- Was a fantastic morning. No complaints. Tons of comments.
- Howling designs did a good job on the awards –very unique.

### **Certificates for Winners – Sean Lawrence**

- For next year give them a certificate as well as the award.
  - Why not do one for this year? Cy Wells thinks we should do this for next year.

### **New Business Added to Agenda**

- Heather reminded the board of directors of their Board photo in January 2018.

### **Smiths Falls Police Board Business Plan Review Request for Input**

- For 2018 to 2020 asking for chamber input and suggestions.
- Don't need to go to much into detail at this time. More information to come. Maybe come up with a draft.

### **Follow-up Workshop to Bill 148**

- Barbara is working on this and is hoping to bring something in January. Workshops for record keeping.
- Only have to worry about minimum wage increase for 2018.
- We should construct a list of workshops for the coming year (2018)

### **Chilispiel**

- Didn't pick a firm date. February or march.

### **Christmas parade**

- Very well done this year. – Cy Wells mentioned it was an hour long.
- Kristine Fair mentioned there was a delay with Santa- there was a break before Santa between the floats.
- Maybe go to the mall next year instead of Lower reach
  - Too dangerous with children running around
- How much do we want to be involved? Weren't involved this year.

### **Executive Director Position**

- Haven't decided on a hiring committee, all resumes are going directly to Barbara Black (president)
  - Eileen Crosbie offered to be apart of the hiring committee
  - Heather mentioned the job ad will be in the newspaper.

### **Meeting Adjourn at 9:00 a.m.**

**Moved:** Sean Lawrence

**Second:** Kristine Fair

**Motion Carried.**

**Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Valley Heartland board room**