

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of Meeting – February 8th, 2017

Valley Heartland Board Room

7:30 am

**Present: Barbara Black, Sean Lawrence, Chris Saumure, Mike Fletcher, ,
Heather Currie-Whiting, Therese Dinelle, Jean Sherman, Eileen Crosbie**

Regrets: Paula Inglis, Kristine Fair

Absent: Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan, Cy Wells

Guest: John Maloney

Call to Order by President, Barbara Black, at 7:35 am

Changes to Minutes of January 11th, 2017

None

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Second: Chris Saumure

Motion Carried

Changes to Minutes of January 23rd, 2017

None

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Second: Chris Saumure

Motion Carried

Disclosure of Monetary Interest

None

Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls

Jay Brennan – Town in addressing some bylaw zoning issues.

- The second budget draft will be out next week.
- 2.4% increase due to drop in assessment
- Water and sewage are 7-8% and are talking a possible increase. Clarification was requested before any increase or decrease.
- Working on revamping the websites
- Only received \$17000 from Canada150 – some came through the High School for a powwow on Turtle Island and remaining portion for musical events.
- Renovations to Town Hall – are getting an architect in place and then the funding.

Council Report – Township of Rideau Lakes

Arie Hoogenboom (temporary replacement for Jeff Banks)

- Passed budget with a 1.85% increase which is lower than the Leeds & Grenville County of 2%.
- 2016 they had a surplus of \$130000. Working on lowering the deficit.
- Small Grants issued to RI action league, Smiths Falls Pool, Food Bank and Lombardy Agricultural Society.
- There is a \$20000 grant for community improvement program.

- Hired an Ombudsman (Nigel Bellchamber) to determine who/what was responsible for the \$1.2 million deficit. Advised to restructure council from 10 members to 7 member. Council rejected and decided on 9 members. Some are challenging council's decision.
- Council is looking to cancel the Smiths Falls Recreation Agreement – it will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Economic and Development is giving business awards – 3 categories. It's a breakfast ward session on April 7, 2017. Heather was asked to send to members which Heather had already addressed 2 times through social media and will add to the Newsletter.
- Westport Chamber of Commerce and Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce have been invited to nominate local businesses and attend the breakfast.
- It was recommended that someone from the SFD Chamber of Commerce should make a presences at the next "Skate on the Rideau" which is the last weekend of January each year.
- Sean Lawrence is going to be the representative for the Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce.

Administration/Accounting

- Therese Dinelle reiterated that first half of memberships have been sent out. 40% to-date have renewed, a second reminder will be sent within the next week.

Marketing Co-ordinator

- Heather Whiting announced that there were 3 new members – Panda Pay, Crystal LeVatte – Dominion Lending Centre, Todd Powers – Dominion Lending Centre.
- Town of Smiths Falls was under the impression that the Smiths Falls Chamber did not want to do anything with the Visitor Guide which was a misrepresentation.
- DBA is in transition but Heather is working through it regarding the map
- Heather was asked to commence with the April Breakfast Session – Are you ready for the influx of Canada150 tourism? Speak with Annie Laurie, Parks Canada

Victoria Park Campground Committee

Chris Saumure – mention the Contractual Agreement budget.

- Meeting was setup for Friday, February 10th, 2017 at 9:00 am, Chamber office.

Mike Fletcher – presented his Cash Flow budget and went through it with everyone.

Flags for Victoria Park Campground

- Call MP to see if they will give free flags.
- Flags Unlimited is less expensive.
- Board advised to get 2 flags for the park.

Charity Funds – Re: Calendar 2001

Therese Dinelle discussed that we should start distributing funds from the Calendar 2001 funds to charities. Heather suggested to Chamber member charities. It was mentioned that some charities have substantial funds that it was felt it should go to the charities that are struggling. A nominal amount of \$1000 or \$2000 per year. Chamber member charities list to be put together and send an email to directors. The directors to go through list, add and possibly choose a charity.

Suggestions for charities were:

Duncan J. Schoular – Smart Play Program – Breakfast Program – New paving for basketball court.

- Discussion of \$1000 or \$2000 – no definite amount confirmed.

Curling ChiliSpiel

Heather Whiting stated we have 5 chili entries – need more. Only 6 to 7 curlers have signed up. John Maloney volunteered to be a judge for the chili contest. Suggested – could the directors reach out to others and ask them to participate. Suggested for info to be sent to chamber members which was advised has been done several times as well as social media but will be done several more times. An increase of participation is needed.

Job Description for Chamber Staff

Descriptions were done by Heather Whiting and Therese Dinelle. Were asked to send to directors by email for their review. To be re-addressed at next meeting.

DBA asked to put up a sign on the Victoria Park Campground building

All were in favour. The DBA to be made aware it is their responsibility to maintain and repair if necessary. Therese Dinelle suggested a written document, Mike Fletcher agreed. Directors didn't see that it was necessary.

Bylaws

To be chaired at next meeting.

Smiths Falls Christmas Parade

A letter was received from Dave Lawrence and committee. Therese Dinelle was asked to bring copies to the next meeting.

Rideau Rendez-vous and Green Mile

John Maloney asked if there would be a possibility that the Chamber would be interested in hosting a dry camping area for a possible 3000 campers on July 14, 15 and 16th, 2017. John is working with Rideau Rendez-Vous on a motorcycle tour with a possible 8000 riders. Their main stay is focused on Smiths Falls. The remaining proceeds made through the event will be distributed to local charities in Smiths Falls as well as to a local pet charity and Chimo School. The event includes a free concert on the first night, a second concert with admission fees on the 2nd night as well as a pig roast. Port-a-Potties would be needed. The event planner has coordinated with police for security. Motorcyclists have already started booking rooms at local businesses. To check out the venue – go to facebook/rideaurendezvous.

The directors voiced enthusiasm and interest but would be need to speak with other prominent figures for area, liability insurance and any other legalities before committing.

John Maloney also mentioned he is hosting "The Green Mile" on March 17th, 2017 at the County Fair Mall – Target Store location. The cost is \$68 per person- includes 4 beer and sandwiches.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Sean Lawrence Second: Chris Saumure Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned.