

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 13, 2016

Council Lounge

7:30 am

Present: Chris Saumure, Cy Wells, Sean Lawrence, Anne Shropshire, Barbara Black, Ann Knowlton, Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan, Kristina Mausser, Becky White and Ashley Lennox

Council Reps: *Jay Brennan and Jeff Banks*

Regrets: Dawn Quinn and Dale Hilton

Call to Order

Anne Shropshire called the meeting to order and read the mission statement aloud. Anne welcomed all of the board members to the first meeting of the year.

New Business to add to Agenda

Anne Shropshire

10) Town Strategic Plan Open House

11) OEVI Fund

Motion to accept Agenda

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Seconded: Barbara Black

Motion Carried

Changes to the minutes from November 18, 2015

None

Motion to accept the minutes from November 18, 2015

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Seconded: Barbara Black

Motion Carried

Disclosure of Monetary Interest

None

Council Report Town of Smiths Falls

Jay Brennan Reported

- Special Presentation from Watson and Associates – Water and Waste Water Rate Study
 - Municipalities moving towards users paying for costs
 - Working on an Asset Management Plan
- Cyril Cooper presented updated terms of reference for the Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Budget – first draft of Operations side of budget
 - Total requests for community donations is \$160,000
 - Amount to be set in the budget to be given to the community groups. 1% of the tax dollars collected will be used which will be \$130,00 in 2016

Council Report – Township of Rideau Lake

Jeff Banks Reported

- Rideau Lakes is going to form an Economic Development Committee with Council
- Prelim budget – 3.2% increase
- End of Year – Township has ended the year with a surplus of \$100,000
- Asset Management Plan – raise money for infrastructure
- Signed an agreement with Athens and Westport – Arena Costs

Appointment of President, Vice President and Treasurer

An email was sent to all board members asking for nominations before the meeting. Chris Saumure read the nominations that were put forward as follows:

President – Anne Shropshire

Treasurer – Kristina Mausser

Vice President – Sean Lawrence

Barbara Black

Motion to accept Anne Shropshire as President

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Seconded: Barbara Black

Carried

Motion to accept Kristina Mausser as Treasurer

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Seconded: Barbara Black

Carried

Motion to accept Barbara Black as Vice President

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Seconded: Ann Knowlton

Carried

2016 Executive is as follows:

President: Anne Shropshire

Vice President: Barbara Black

Past President: Chris Saumure

Treasurer: Kristina Mausser

Review of 2015 Financials

Ashley Lennox handed out a copy of the 2015 Financials to all board members. Anne Shropshire asked all board members to look over the finances and bring any questions forward at the next meeting. Ashley Lennox to sit down with the Kristina Mausser to go over the finances.

Marketing Coordinator Update

Becky White updated the board members on what she has been up to since the last meeting.

- **Following up with members for visits – about half the members contacted so far – 34 members met to date**
- **Meeting with Nicola and Cyril on a regular basis moving forward**
- **2016 Events and Business Info is being collected for the Visitor Guide**
 - **not a good response so far**
 - **Will contact Carl Evoy for a quote on the printing**
- **Business of Smiths Falls Initiative**
 - **Great response so far**
 - **1 business done and 1 being posted next week**
 - **About 10 members volunteered for the initiative**
 - **chamber having one member rejoin just for the initiative**

Office Coordinator Update

Ashley Lennox updated the board on what she has been working on

- Working on the financials for end of year
- Need to look at the Renewals for Memberships

Anne Shropshire requested bringing the Membership Renewals to the Operations Committee instead.

Strategic Plan Update

Kristina Mausser informed the board that we were hoping to have the Strat Plan wrapped up by March but should look at wrapping it up sooner. A Strategic Planning session has been planned for January 28th @ 5:00 pm in the Council Lounge. Ashley to send out invite to all board members.

Town Strategic Plan Open House

CAO Malcolm Morris attended the October board meeting to give an update on the Strategic Plan and ask for input from the Chamber. The Council and Town Staff have now prioritized several items on the Strat plan and are looking at getting the public's input. Anne Shropshire asked the board members to look over the summary and offer any input they can. The open house is scheduled for February 1st at the Arena for 7:00 pm. Becky White to add the invite to the newsletter.

OEVI Fund

Anne Shropshire informed the board that the Council had been approached for placing Electric Vehicle Charge Stations earlier in 2015 and had decided it was not the Municipality that should be contacted. Anne would like to see the information be sent to the members in a newsletter as the deadline is fast approaching.

Upcoming Board Meetings

February 10, 2016

March 10, 2016

Mission Statement:

The Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce is the Voice of Commerce dedicated to the promotion of economic development and the prosperity for the enrichment of our community.