

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of Meeting – June 14th, 2017

Valley Heartland Board Room

7:30 am

**Present: Barbara Black, Sean Lawrence, Mike Fletcher, Jean Sherman, Chris Saumure,
Cy Wells, Eileen Crosbie, Crystal Levatte**

Council: Jeff Banks, Dawn Quinn

Staff: Therese Dinelle, Heather Currie-Whiting, Gail Moore-Barrie

Regrets: Kristine Fair

Absent: Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan

Guest:

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

Mission Statement read by President, Barbara Black

Changes to Minutes of May 10th, 2017

None

Motion to accept Minutes of May 10th, 2017

Moved: Chris Saumure

Second: Sean Lawrence

Motion Carried

Disclosure of Monetary Interest

None

Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls

Dawn Quinn – By-laws for signs has changed to 3 weeks to put up signs.

Aquatic pool closed – Gallipeau’s talked about opening as a membership only.

Funding for new docks at Victoria Park re le Boat and a gas & pump house.

Tax vacancy rebate to be possibly changed to a “Community Improvement Grant” – need to consult with Property Standards.

Canada day parade – looking for ideas.

Council Report – Township of Rideau Lakes

Jeff Banks – Building status – 75 permits issued down from 125 permits last year.

- Rob Dunfield is new councilor
- Summer and winter garbage pick up problems.

Treasurer Report – Mike Fletcher

- May – loss to date of \$18000.
- Campground opening and golf tournament should help to replenish the deficit.
- Submit 1st payment to Town of Smiths Falls – include Malcolm Morris with Art Manhire
- Payroll was \$17000. Due to park opening.

Administration/Accounting

Therese Dinelle – all software up-to-date.

- Second half of membership has been billed out.
- All sponsorships and golfers billed to-date.
- All coupon participants billed.
- Bookkeeping up-to-date

Marketing Coordinator

Heather Whiting - Victoria park campground brochure completed.

- Coupon book had 40-41 participants.
- Business breakfast for June 27th – has only 13 signed up.

Victoria Park Campground

Gail Moore-Barrie – 16 seasonal 9 – ½ seasonal.

- July 57% booked
- Liquid calcium was done – reduced dust by 100%
- Installed speed limit signs – total of 4
- Hired 4 staff – one received some subsidy through Ontrac
- New computer is working great. Using excel program for reservations.
- Front flowerbeds removed, new gravel placed and 2 flower urns.
- New t-shirts for staff have been designed and ordered.

Golf Tournament Committee Report

- 96 golfers and 57 dinners as of June 13, 2017
- Gemmell's, Rivington & Hunt & Dopson – new hole sponsors
- Thanked Cy Wells, Crystale Levatte and committee for spreading the work.
- Attended 2 meetings for the Rideau Rendez-vous. Will be staying at lower reach park – 83 sites – 20' lots will accommodate 4 tents.
- There will be a pig roast, 4-degrees beer garden, walking tour, and poker run. Town will be separating the lots.

GIC's

Barbara Black advised the GIC's at CIBC are closed and transferred to RBC. Board of directors were asked if the GIC money should be reinvested and a consensus to leave as is.

Staffing for Victoria Park Campground without funding – Barbara Black

Thanked Heather and Therese. Heather checked into why we were not accepted for funding. The application filled all areas required for marking purposes and had top marks. The funding in this area was too great to subsidy all applicants.

Barbara Black to ask OCC or CCC to help chambers get funding for staffing.

Application from Pat Wiseman for a director position on the board.

Motion to have Pat Wiseman as a director on the Chamber of Commerce board.

Moved: Eileen Crosbie

Second: Chris Saumure

Motion Carried

Construction on Beckwith St. – re: Signage – Cy Wells

Spoke to merchants.

Possibly signage to help campers, boaters, visitors to get to the downtown.

Heather advised a map was being produced by Metroland and will be distributed by Metroland.

Le Boat – board discussion

Heather was asked to advised there would be an one hour meeting after the breakfast meeting on June 27th, 2017. The President of the Chamber, President of the DBA, etc. will be invited to this meeting.

Barbara asked to see the agenda.

Rebate for the Rideau Hotel – Chris Saumure

Chris was advised that Parkview Construction was asking for tax relief on the Rideau Hotel property. Chris Saumure was strongly opposed and asked if the Chamber would consider addressing Town Council on this opposition. A community improvement rebate would be better received by other businesses in Smiths Falls. Several board members agreed with Chris Saumure's opinion.

Motion to send the Town of Smiths Falls a letter stating the Chamber does not agree with property tax rebate.

Moved: Eileen Crosbie

Second: Chris Saumure

Motion Carried.

Barbara Black volunteered to write up a letter.

Speaker for September, 2017

Barbara Black is trying to invite the OCC and the Minister to speak at the September, 2017 meeting.

Will report on next month

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Second: Mike Fleming

Motion carried.

Next Meeting, Wednesday, July 12th, 2017 at Valley Heartland board room.