

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of Meeting – May 10th, 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, Crystal Levatte**

Council: Jeff Banks, Jay Brennan, Dawn Quinn

Staff: Therese Dinelle, Heather Currie-Whiting

Regrets: Paula Inglis

Absent: Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan

Guest: Malcolm Morris, Cyril Cooper, Art Manhire

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

Mission Statement read by President, Barbara Black

Changes to Minutes of April 12th, 2017

None

Motion to accept Minutes of April 12th, 2017

Moved: Chris Saumure

Second: Sean Lawrence

Motion Carried

Disclosure of Monetary Interest

None

Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls

Jay Brennan – Dennis Staples, Former Mayor and Jack Traynor are proposing to have the skateboard park dedicated to the late Chief Hardy.

- 48th Citizen Banquet is being held May 31st, 2017 – proceeds to go to the fire victims from 8 Pearl St., guest speaker is Bruce Linton, Tweed – tickets \$25. Each, Chamber office has some tickets.

Dawn Quinn – Home & Living Show, a Thank you to the Chamber and to Saumure Group for their support. Attendance of 3,500 people for the 2 days – May 6th and May 7th, 2017

- Vacancy Rebate – 30% commercial and 35% industrial facilities are vacant in Smiths Falls. There will be a public meeting to discuss. Provincial mandate is flexible and this could cost the town \$100,000. The board was asked to put their thoughts together. This topic to be added to the next month agenda.

Council Report – Township of Rideau Lakes

Jeff Banks – Bi-election for new council member on July 15th, 2017.

Treasurer Report – Mike Fletcher

- Deficit of an additional \$4000.
- No revenue to report
- Bank balance has dropped by \$10,000 due to HST remittance and payroll.
- Previous manager has signed a 5 year lease for the photocopier. The chamber is 2 years in with 3 years remaining. Is there a back-out clause?

Administration/Accounting

Therese Dinelle –was asked if there are enough funds to invoice the Town of Smiths Falls for the 1st draw. Therese advised not enough expense to invoice if the requirements are the same as last year.

- Therese provided a breakdown of costs and expenses for Gail Moore-Barrie's campsite. This was provided to the Board so the actual facts are understood.

Marketing Coordinator

Heather Whiting - Golf tournament brochures and sign up sheets were provided by Heather.

- Breakfast had a great turn-out. Need to have a speaker available if an emergency arises that the original speaker is unable to attend.
- Home & Living Show was a good opportunity to meet chamber members and for possible new chambers. There was a good turnout. Barbara Black thanked, Heather, Therese and Crystal Levatte for manning the booth. For future shows like this, the board needs more notice in order to help man the booth. Home show for next year to be added to the Agenda in January/February 2018.
- Coupon book - Therese has helped and I will finalized today or tomorrow.

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

- A meeting will be held May 24th, 2017 at 1 pm. The board is invited.
- As per Art Manhire – it is a work-in-progress. Logistics to be worked out.
- The meeting will help to determine all with regards to the event.
- John Maloney is a small part of this event now. The town is handling the logistics.

Victoria Park Campground

Gail Moore-Barrie – Barbara Black welcomed Gail back.

- 11 seasonal and 7 ½-seasonal have arrived.
- Road is in need of grading. A lot of pot-holes.
- Flower beds in front of the building have been removed by the Town of Smiths Falls. The town will supply 4 planters and the flowers. There is a low spot which will be repaired as well as new outside lights going on the building.
- Sign needs repair – it is in bad shape. The town branding will be announced June 29th, 2017 so we will not know the new colours, logo or tag line.

Victoria Park Campground – continued

- Therese created a program in excel which is working well. We will continue to use the books that were ordered but once they are done, we will not require them any longer. The excel program will print out the required documents.
- Blue Grass Band – Fiddle Earth -for \$250. For 2 hours. Trying to get some funding from Economic Development from their event funding and host this with the annual barbeque. The barbeque is a Thank You to our current campers which is free to them. It was recommended too give tickets to the campers to receive there barbeque free and then sell hamburgers and hot dogs while quantities last for those who just show up. Permission given to go ahead with the band.
- The computer at the campground is giving a lot of problems with freezing, shutting down, taking forever to open programs, etc. Is it possible to buy a new computer? The computer has been there for a long time.

Motion to have the sign repaired or purchase a new sign up to total of \$1,000..

Moved: Chris Saumure

Second: Cy Wells

Motion Carried.

Motion to purchase a new computer for Victoria Park Campground not to exceed \$700.

Moved: Chris Saumure

Second: Cy Wells

Motion Carried.

Golf Tournament Committee Report and Gaming Issue

Meeting next week.

AGM Update

Kristine Fair, Chair-person – advised the Auctioneer will be Wayne Cavanaugh. Kristine, herself, will be the MC.

- Kristine asked who would be on the committee. The following will be on the committee: Eileen Crosbie, Cy Wells, Crystal Levatte, Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan, Sean Lawrence, Chris Saumure and Kristine Fair will be the Chair-person for the committee.
- A meeting was scheduled after the golf committee next Wednesday, May 17th, 2017 at the Smiths Falls Golf & Country Club.

TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS, MALCOLM MORRIS, CYRIL COOPER, ART MANHIRE

Le Boat

- Will start operations in 2018.
- Boat will be here either the end of October, 2017 or Spring, 2018
- Smiths Falls will be the North American & Marketing Head Office in Canada
- A meeting will be held with Le Boat delegation, June 26 to 28th, 2017, the chamber was invited to attend the meeting.
- Details are still being worked out but the above feel it is 97-98% complete.
- On May 15th, 2017, Le Boat will start selling world-wide for tours on the Rideau Canal.
- Le Boat will be starting with 16 – 18 boats and will be across from Victoria Park Campground.
- In 5 years Le Boat hopes to have 32 boats being commissioned out of Smiths Falls Head Quarters.
- A preliminary pre-booking was done to see how much interest and there were over 1,000 interested participants – 52% American and 48% European.
- An eight page brochure was passed around with details on different stopping hubs along the canal.
- Town is working on a 5 page book brochure that will highlight all of Smiths Falls - both in a hard copy and an app.
- An announcement will be made this week by the Town.
- When renting a boat, you don't need a boater's license.
- The town is working with Parks Canada. Prescribed uses were established in the 1800's so there are some items to be ironed-out.
- The town needs to build a marina and are working on the best area, what to include, etc..
- The chamber asked if there would be a re-fueling station attainable to all – and they felt this would be addressed at the meeting.
- The above were asked if Victoria Park Campground will still exist in 5 years and the answer was that the town wants to work with the chamber and have open discussions.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 am

Moved: Cy Wells

Second: Chris Saumure

Motion carried.

Next Meeting, Wednesday, June 14th, 2017 at Valley Heartland board room.