

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Meeting – May 9, 2018
7:30 a.m.

Present: Barbara Black, Sean Lawrence, Chris Saumure, Mike Fletcher, Cy Wells, Kristine Fair, Crystal LeVatte, Pat Wiseman, Eileen Crosbie, Jean Sherman, Amber Beasley

Council: Jay Brennan, Dawn Quinn

Staff: Becky Allen, Mercedes Masson

Regrets: Jeff Banks

Absent: Tracy Gallipeau-Nolan

Guest:

Call to Order by President, Barbara Black, at 7:40 a.m.

Mission Statement read by President, Barbara Black

- Barbara Black thanked everyone for sending their reports before. She also said she feels like we are making good progress to become a governance board.
- Kristine Fair thanked Barbara Black for her leadership.

Motion to Accept Minutes of March 14, 2018

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Second: Eileen Crosbie

Motion Carried.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls

- Tweed has been allowed to lay communication lines under Hershey Drive.
- In process of interviews for hiring an economic development manager and fire chief.
 - Malcolm Morris and Lynda Vanat are on the hiring committee.
 - There were over 30 people apply for both positions.
- Town Council looking for input regarding the tiny homes for homeless youth.
 - We don't need anymore homeless in the town of Smiths Falls.
 - Cy Wells mentioned educating the homeless youth. For example, how to manage your money.
- The Legion is wanting to bring armor personnel carrier in on Elmsley St.
 - Council position is mixed. Art Manhire is not in favor. Opposing to location.
- Monday was the Fam tour.
 - Organized by the Economic Development
 - Becky Allen and Dawn Quinn were talking that it should be open to other business owners.

- Sean Lawrence asked if the town would be willing to do 2 or 3 a year.
- Dawn Quinn thanked Chris Saumure and his company, as well as, Pat Wiseman for their assistance with the Home Show at the Settlers Ridge Centre.
 - 2,600 people; Vendors were happy.
 - Money is going towards a banner for events.

Council Report – Township of Rideau Lakes

- No report

Treasurer Report – Mike Fletcher

- Mike Fletcher is still frustrated with the new online version of Quickbooks.
 - Not happy with the format of the reports.
- There's not a lot of activity.
- Primary revenue is membership dues.
- In overall, 5% actions, 20% membership dues, 8% sponsorships.
- A difference of \$45,000 a year.
- Basically, business is usual. Still profitable. The events that are coming up will drive the revenue up.

Chamber Update – Becky Allen

Campground

- Construction update: the wall is complete. They put in the docks on Monday, but the docks may not have been placed yet.
- Camper on Site #1 was moved during the construction.
- We have lost some seasonals. A mixture of different reasons; Mainly weren't happy about the construction.
 - Becky Allen spoke with all of them and they may consider coming back.
 - Barbara Black mentioned we haven't raised the rates in the Campground for 10 years. Also, it might have been the manner it came in that upset campers. Some Campers are on fixed incomes.
- Hired 4 of the 5 students for the campground.
- Becky Allen is looking at beautifying the campground. She already got a quote on landscaping.
- Mike Fletcher and Mike Cimilyan have been working hard on the website, as well as Mercedes Masson.
 - It looks like it is ready to go.
- The Campground has no internet until Monday.
- We currently have 4 RV's on the Lombard side.
- Chris Saumure mentioned putting meters in the park.
- Replacing our lost revenue, we could put trailers on the site and rent to tweed workers.
 - Should we discount our cost?
 - Will it change the character of the campground?
 - Have them for traveling workers instead of construction workers.

- Cannot sublet.
- Mike Fletcher and Becky Allen to take on replacing our revenue.
 - Discuss paper and circulate to the board.
 - To involve Gail Moore-Barrie as well.
- Mike Fletcher drafted up a revised lease for the town, as we are trying to put in place as soon as possible.

Chamber Offices

- We are meeting with Malcolm Morris regarding offices.
 - Becky Allen will include the executive on that.
- The glass is delaying, might be another month for deadline.
 - Chris Saumure mentioned it's not the glass holding things up.
- There's an ongoing debate regarding who will be manning the central office space.
 - Not having Cyril Cooper, the town is interested in sharing with everyone.
 - It is better and easier for us having it this way.

Chamber Events

- May 30th Chamber vs. Chamber Networking Event. Chambers participating include Smiths Falls, Perth and Westport.
 - We have a few teams signed up for this event including Ross & Clifflen and MI613 Inc.
 - It is a mini putt competition.
 - For \$10 you get complete access of the equipment.
 - Becky mentioned she will be attending. Eileen Crosbie and Pat Wiseman also volunteered to attend. If anyone else wants to volunteer connect with Becky Allen.
- The April Business Breakfast meeting was awesome. We had close to 70 people there. Very few no shows.
 - Becky Allen mentioned it was great to hear from Tweed.
- Next Business Breakfast meeting is May 22nd. The topic is Cyber Security presented by James Phillips of MI613 Inc at Rob Roy's.
- Sherry Crummy will be doing the June meeting at 4 Degrees Brewing. Still going over details.
- June 16th is the Healthy Living Festival. Becky Allen would like to set up a booth.
- Crystal LeVatte got a lot of great feedback about our Breakfast Meetings.
- June 23rd is the Smiths Falls Triathlon. Previous years there has been approximately 500-800 attendees. It has slowly died down, as it only has 150 attendees.
 - Becky Allen wondered if we could make this a Chamber event. Summersault wants to hold onto it.
- A new yarn store opening on Russell St. are wanting to do a grand opening. Becky Allen will go and see if they would like to do a ribbon cutting.
 - Cy Wells mentioned that 5 new stores are opening.

- Cy Wells mentions that a new buck or two store will be at the Settler's Ridge Mall. Also, Natatia Gemmell may be looking for a grand opening as well.
 - Barbara Black mentioned that we need to have 3 or 4 board members to attend the grand openings.
- Creating a welcome package and start recruiting some bigger companies.
- Amber Beasley mentions that the DBA and Chamber are in partnership with the Summer Savings Passport. 12,000 copies are to be distributed. Some people have put in ads without offer.
 - Lots are interested, a few interested in a full page.
 - Chamber and DBA members get a discounted price.
 - We are using town photos on the front. Playing of the town colors for the cover.
 - We will also have these at the Campground and Le Boat.
- There is a meeting with Troy Dunlop regarding the re-development of Beckwith Street on the 15th of May.
 - Any board members that would like to attend are more than welcome to.
 - It is a preliminary meeting at 1 p.m. Might be able to move to work with Cy Wells schedule.
 - Barbara Black would like to attend this meeting.
 - One of the topics that will be discussed is, how will these businesses survive and thrive through construction?
- There is a documentary being done in Smiths Falls. Amelia and Peter have been interviewing people, including Becky Allen.

New Business Added to Agenda

- Mike Fletcher mentioned that some money has been set aside for new office furniture.
 - Are we sourcing locally?
 - Becky Allen mentioned getting standing desks.
 - Check with the town to see what they plan on doing for furniture.
 - Art Manhire is doing a lot of the design decisions.
- Barbara Black would like to thank Becky Allen for coming so well prepared to the board meetings. As well as, Mike Fletcher and Mercedes Masson.
- Barbara Black mentioned that we should plan on doing an all candidates meeting. Once the golf tournament is out of the way, we talked about having it in September.
 - Carleton Place Chamber is doing an all candidates. Becky Allen should talk to them and see if we can "piggy back".
- Becky Allen mentioned that the musical rides are coming up May 27th at Lower Reach Park.

Adjourn at 8:40 a.m.

Moved: Eileen Crosbie

Second: Kristine Fair

Motion Carried.

Next Meeting, Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at Valley Heartland board room