

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Meeting – October 11th, 2017
7:30 a.m.

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

Council: Jeff Banks

Staff: Heather Whiting, Mercedes Masson

Regrets: Tracy, Gallipeau, Dawn Quinn, Cy Wells, Gail Moore-Barrie

Absent: Jay Brennan

Guest:

Call to Order by President, Barbara Black, at 7:30 a.m.

Mission Statement read by President, Barbara Black

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Motion to accept Minutes of September 13, 2017 with corrections

- Sean Lawrence to be added to Present list.

Moved Kristine Fair

Second Chris Saumure

Motion Carried.

Council Report – Town of Smiths Falls

- No representative

Council Report – Town of Rideau Lakes

- Building stats (still half of what they were last year)
- Planner is off on maternity leave back in 8 months, CEO taking over that position.

Treasurer Report – Mike Fletcher

- Financial statements are not complete
- Plans to go into office next week to work on the financials
- Need to find out the Town of Smiths Falls policy for paying invoices (30 days, 15?)

Marketing Coordinator – Heather Whiting

- Several big events upcoming, Bill 148, AGM and Christmas Bonspiel.
- Planning to work on Chamber priorities for next year
- People are recognizing Chamber make difference (even getting comments from people who are not chamber members)
- Remembrance Day wreath. Are we doing this year? Yes.
- Christmas parade – last year we didn't participate
 - Sometime in December. Heather to find out the date; its mostly just decorating the float.

Victoria Park Campground –

- The trailers are all gone.
- The executive would like to start that process of renegotiation.
 - Would like to find out about leasing from Parks
- Question: Who owns the office for Victoria Park?

Gala Update– Kristine Fair

- There is 160 people attending.
- Could everyone with tickets please report to heather what tickets you have sold
- Seating will be simple/ open seating (royal bank table, Saumure table, open table)
- Guest speaker will be 40 -45 mins long can shorten to 30 mins or start during dinner.
- Have dinner served earlier than 7.
- If Todd starts at 7:30 get us through to * to 8:15
- Todd will be speaking about goal setting and he will be giving away a book to everyone
- Bob Perrault is Emceeing and doing the auction
- Sponsors will be recognized
- River city junction will be setting up at 4
- Set up on Friday for volunteers – around 11 a.m.
- Centrepieces will be sent at noon.
- If any request for vegetarian dinner (lasagna)
- There is a president award – the winner doesn't know
- Mention of Gemmell's Flowers celebrating 85 years at the Gala
- Barbara request an agenda for the evening – Heather to send
- Have to clean up that night as there is another event the next day at Hanley Hall

Annual General Meeting

- The Gala Committee will be the AGM committee
- November 28th
- Location? Jean cater?
- Awards? Next week meeting to discuss the AGM after the Gala. Tuesday, October 17th Saumure Board Rm.

Bill 148 Event – Heather Whiting

- The evening on the 1st at the arena
- An event was held last week in Beckwith- lots of people attended
- Looking at getting more people to speak on the panel
- Randy Hillier – wants to try to make it
- Steve Clark cannot make it; would like to see if someone else from his office could attend.
- We are going to have people from the Ontario ministry, but are only there to listen not to answer questions.
- Do we need to find a moderator? We could have a good balanced panel.
- We are looking at 5 to 6 people for the panel – board members are asked to keep in mind some people to be on the panel

Chamber Breakfast – Heather Whiting

- Only one person registered for October Business Breakfast
- Decision - Cancelling until January.
- 2018 Speakers – will we have enough interested to speak?
 - Heather and Mike to discuss frequency and plan out 2018 Breakfast series.

Christmas Bonspiel – Heather Whiting

- Booked for December 20th 2018 at the Curling Club
- Lunch & afternoon curling
- Heather suggests a catered lunch instead of a Chili Cookoff.
- It was suggested we have a Chili competition with 3 or 4 restaurants
- Perhaps we can pay the restaurants and then the Chili competition can be the catered lunch
- Christmas themed?
- The ugly sweater

Business/ Strategic Plan for 2018 – Barbara Black

- Several areas need attention: Victoria Park, Budget, Job descriptions, etc.

- Is Victoria Park office winterized? Maybe work out of the Victoria Park office during winter.

New Business added to agenda

- Sending a cheque request to the town of Smiths Falls sent on 28th of September they want us to revise the cheque request, still waiting for cheque.
 - Barbara sent follow up email to Malcolm.
 - The lease with parks Canada is up in January. Looking for better revenue. The amount \$56891 – waiting for a month now.
- Roundabouts? They need them in Smiths Falls. Elmsley St. and Cornelia would be a perfect spot.
 - Beckwith Re-development looking at 3 different concepts. Angle parking taken out?
 - People wasting fuel waiting at stop lights.
 - From the Hospital on Cornelia St. to the Bridge will be re-developed.
 - The hospital intersection will be like a gateway to the town.
 - Businesses on main drag will be impacted due to infrastructure.
 - Two of the plans involve going to eliminate parallel parking. Out of 124 spots we would lose 24 spots.
 - A centre median would take away from room for trucks on road.
 - Beckwith Street is part of the Hwy so the Government will be paying for a chunk of it.
- * Bring this topic back to next month's meeting when there is a Smiths Falls town councillor

Meeting Adjourn at 8:50 a.m.

Moved: Sean Lawrence

Second: Pat Wiseman

Motion Carried.

Next Meeting, Wednesday, November 8th, 2017 at Valley Heartland board room.