

SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 14, 2014

Valley Heart Land Board Room

7:30 am

Present: *Chris Saumure, Dave Lawrence, CY Wells, John Maloney, Barry Webster, Jim Pankow, Joe Gallipeau, Sean Lawrence, John Gray, Kristine Fair, Anne Shropshire, Bev Street*

Council Reps: *Dennis Staples, Jay Brennan, Jeff Banks*

Regrets: *Eileen Crosbie, Hugh Colton, Jim Pankow*

Guests: *Kevin ODair, Bob Cheetham*

Call to Order

Chris Saumure called meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chris read the mission statement

New Business to add to Agenda

None

Motion to accept Agenda

Moved: John Gray

Seconded: John Maloney

Changes to the minutes from January 15, 2014

No changes

Motion to accept the minutes from January 15, 2014

Moved Sean Lawrence

Seconded Cy Wells

Disclosure of Monetary Interest

None

Voyageur Canoe Celebration

- Bob Cheetham presented to the Board a proposal about the Chamber being involved with the Voyageur Celebration on August 16/14
- Rideau Roundtable has the Voyageur Canoes
- The event would be a day of celebration leading up to a festival in 2017
- This year it would be a welcoming spot for one of the portages in the K20 which is a race in slow moving water with 22 portages from Kingston to Ottawa and must be completed within 32 hours
- The paddlers from the race would be coming through Smiths Falls on Saturday evening
- Suggestions that we have activities ect to cheer them on.
- This year it will be a day of activities with the voyageur canoes
- In the upcoming years the Chamber would be the ones to do the grant writing for the event through CFDC or other avenues
- The event is looking for 6 or 7 thousand dollars from CFDC and the matching funds from the town of Smiths Falls
- The Chamber would play more of an administrative role in this event.
- The day of the event will have races and events on the water to promote the water systems in our area
- The Chamber will promote the event throughout the months of June July and August as soon as the details are worked out.
- During the months of July and August the Rideau Roundtable would like to have the canoes visible to the community to generate interest in the canoes and the event

Motion

A motion was brought forward to have the Chamber as the primary administrative and grant writing entity.

Motioned: Cy W

Seconded: Sean L

Motion Carried

A motion was brought forward to have the Chamber donate \$500.00 to the event this year.

Motioned by John Gray

Seconded: Kristine Fair

Motion Carried

Action:

- Chamber look at grants
- Melissa attend meetings in regards to this event

- Send a cheque for \$500 to the Rideau Roundtable
- Promote the event

Council Report Town of Smiths Falls

- Mayor Staple gave the report
- There have been COW meetings in regards to the property at 42 William St. (Orange Hall)
- It is possibly be the relocation place for the yoga and wellness centre and other businesses. This will be back at council on June 2, 2014
- The other item is a policy on community donations- there will be a policy and a report at the May 26 /14 Cow meeting
- May 28 /14 during the hours of 2 pm – 6 pm there is a retirement event for Rick St.Dennis
- There will be a reconciliation of financial statement at next council
- The federal gas tax will flow for the next five years in the amount of five hundred and twenty thousand per year for Smiths Falls
- There will be interviews for the CAO May 20 – May 24 week
- The Otis development at the LCBO is well under way
- The Mayor announced that the Tim Hortons at Lombard St. looks very good
- The Beer Store is modernizing which shows the confidence in our town to reinvest

Jay Brennan

- There has been discussion with the youth group about using the youth arean afor there permanent home
- Unfortunately the arena is used by many groups and it is not feasible for the youth group to use it exclusively
- Agreed by all council this is not a suitable venue
- The youth group is still looking for a home
- The fire chief is giving monthly reports to council
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Council Report – Township of Rideau Lake

- Jeff Banks gave this report
- The biggest item from him is that the government might start having municipality to account for the depreciation of items own by the towns
- This will have huge effects on taxes.

Victoria Park Contract

- The agreement was passed

- Board members would like a copy of the agreement sent to them

Strategic Planning Update

- The deadline passed with few answers
- A committee has been set up consisting of Anne Shropshire (co-chair), Joe Gallipeau (co-chair), Barry Webster, Hugh Colton, John Gray and Tracey Pankow
- Next meeting staff will provide a presentation on what a chamber does
- September 1st 2014 has been is the goal to have the first part of the strategic plan completed
- The document that the OCC has just released will be used as a guideline
- Staff to inquire about having Allen Odette speak at our AGM

Business Accreditation Program

- Algonquin College offers a Business Package to members of the Perth Chamber
- It is a series of programs 6 in all
- After completion of these courses your business is accredited
- Action Item: Contact Algonquin and inquire if they would partner with the Smiths Falls Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Updates

- Marshall Cubitt has requested \$250 from the Chamber to help with the Soap Box Derby
- This is an undertaking that Marshall does all on his own
- This event brings people to town
- The board agreed it needs to be promoted more and have more exposure to increase attendance
- The Victoria Park Committee need to meet to discuss the Keyless lock system and the Shower mats
- The new merchant benefit in place of TD is First Data and we are promoting it with the members
- It was discussed that the area Chambers will partner in attending area trade and tourism show while sharing cost and manpower

Motion for the Chamber to help Marshall promote this event.

Moved by Hugh Colton

Seconded by John Gray

Motion Carried

Physician Recruitment

- Kevin O'Dair and the Mayor who are handling this
- The task force needs to be defined

Economic Development

- Kevin O'Dair is filling this role
- There are several projects under way

New Business

- Tweed Inc has gone public
- They employ 25 people to date
- They are continuing to grow

Public Works Budget

- The DBA doesn't have the funds to hire a student to work for the summer
- They have 2000 to put toward this

Motion to have the Chamber provide our students to help the DBA during the summer, the DBA to share in the cost with their \$2000.

Moved by Sean Lawrence
Seconded by Hugh Colton
Motion Carried

Upcoming Board Meetings --

May 14, 2014

June 4, 2014

No Board meeting in July and August

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.