

**SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**August 12, 2014**

**Valley Heart Land Board Room**

**7:30 am**

**Present:** *Chris Saumure, Eileen Crosbie, Anne Shropshire, John Maloney, Cy Wells, Barry Webster, Jim Pankow, Joe Gallipeau, Sean Lawrence, Melissa Hillier and Ashley Lennox*

**Council Reps:** *Jay Brennan and Jeff Banks*

**Regrets:** *Dave Lawrence, Kristine Fair-Clemmens, Tracey Pankow, John Gray, Hugh Colton, Bev Street*

**Guests:** *Kevin ODair*

**Call to Order**

Chris Saumure called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**New Business to add to Agenda**

None

**Motion to accept Agenda**

**Moved:** Sean Lawrence

**Seconded:** Eileen Crosbie

**Changes to the minutes from May 14, 2014**

No changes

**Motion to accept the minutes from May 14, 2014**

**Moved** John Maloney

**Seconded** Sean Lawrence

**Disclosure of Monetary Interest**

None

### **Council Report Town of Smiths Falls**

- Jay Brennan gave the report
- Cataraqui Trail – Trailhead – Federal Government has a \$10 Million dollar fund for maintenance and approval of trails. Town is unable to apply for the grant but will partner with Trailhead. Town of Smiths Falls will provide \$10,000 towards the application - there will be road access to the trail as well as a pavilion and parking added with this grant
- Rink of Dreams – Gerry Lowe and Sens Foundation gifted a rink of dreams to the Town. This rink will be located where the old arena was. Plans are being made to be built this fall. Agreement with the Sens foundation should be ready for Monday council meeting.
- New CAO should come to next meeting to introduce himself to the board
- Golf for Staples going really well. Still looking for swag for the packages

### **Council Report – Township of Rideau Lake**

- Cat Trail - \$240,000 project - \$120,000 provided by the Federal Government. There will be an update to the trail on golf club road, cedar road, Indian lake road, and marine road. A parking area will be added in the Golf Club Road area. Rideau Lakes has contributed \$1,500 to the trail.
- Development Fee meeting August 27<sup>th</sup> to increase the fees
- Was in Switzerland recently – Roundabout recommended instead of traffic lights

### **Strategic Planning Update**

- Anne Shropshire informed the board that the committee has met 5 times
- Draft recommendations have been drafted to bring to the board for approval in September
- Tourism is a big area that the committee feels we need to focus on
- Chamber needs better presence in the Town Hall. Committee feels the Chamber office should be located in the front of Town Hall. – Reception and police area
- Chris Saumure to present the idea of the possible move to the CAO. Chamber staff to set up this meeting. Chamber staff to also let the board members know when the meeting is in case anyone else wants to be present.

Motion to initiate a discussion regarding moving the Chamber office to the front of Town Hall (Old Police location)

**Moved:** Cy Wells

**Motion Seconded:** Sean Lawrence

**Motion carried**

## **Chamber Update**

- Melissa updated the board on what's going on at the chamber
- 2 mystery shoppers have visited our locations – chamber and park – both have received high evaluations
- Paddlefest is this Saturday August 16 at lower reach park – starts at 10 am and runs till 10 pm – Tweed has partnered with us to become a major sponsor and have allowed us to have fireworks
- John Maloney informed the board that they will be playing American Graffiti on the big screen on Russell St. E. as well as a car show
- John Gray has donated two signs to be placed outside the Chamber and Victoria Park so that visitors know where we are – This has increased traffic ten fold
- Held the first FAM tour this year – bus was full – visited 15 businesses in town – Healey Transportation donated a bus – event was a huge success and look forward to expanding it in the future
- Jeff Banks – asked Chamber to send a letter to Rideau Lakes asking for support

## **Annual General Meeting**

- Melissa informed the board that the committee has met and they feel we need to focus on by-law changes
- Need an application for a board member 30 days before the AGM
- Potential to amend section 3.2 in the by-laws

Motion: To amend section 3.2 of the by-law to read: Candidates for the Board of Directors, other than the Past President who shall automatically be a member of the Board of Directors, shall be nominated at the Annual Meeting. At the first meeting of each year, the members of the Chamber present, or a majority of them, shall elect by ballot, in the manner prescribed by these by-laws, the Board of Directors.

Add a section 3.2.1: At the first meeting of each year, the Board of Directors shall elect an Executive consisting of a President, Vice President and Treasurer.

**Moved:** Anne Shropshire

**Motion Seconded:** Sean Lawrence

**Motion carried by Vote:** For: 3 Against: 2

These changes will be taken to the membership at a general meeting – to be held on October 8, 2014 at 7:30 am at the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario

- AGM October 29, 2014 – check to see if speaker available this date

**Upcoming Board Meetings**

**September 10, 2014**

**October 8, 2014**

**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.**