

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, 2014
- Rideau Roundtable has 3 Voyageur Canoes
- The event would be an annual 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
- This year it will be a day of activities with the voyageur canoes
- The Chamber would be the lead on the grant writing for the event through CFDC and/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
- 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 lead grant writing entity and fulfill an administrative role.

Motioned: Cy Wells

Seconded: Sean Lawrence

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:

- Melissa attend meetings in regards to this event
- Send a cheque for \$500 to the Rideau Roundtable (once event is confirmed)
- 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)
- The yoga and wellness centre will be re-locating there along with 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 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 area for their 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 Council that this is not a suitable venue
- The youth group is still looking for a home
- The fire chief is giving monthly reports to council

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 budget for the depreciation of items own by the towns. This will have huge effects on taxes.
- The CAO has retired in Rideau Lakes
- There have been some internal shifts
- Delta Trailer park open for the season with upgraded power outlets
- Rideau Lakes has an agreement with Smiths Falls in the arena cost sharing

What does the Chamber do?

- The board watched a power point presentation created to give an overview of what the Chamber does
- The presentation explained the various roles that the chamber takes at different times and to what extent the chamber is involved in the community
- Ways that the chamber works for the members were clearly defined

Chamber Updates

- June board meeting on June 4, 2014 as the Chamber Golf Tournament is on the regular day
- The Visitor guide will be placed at the cashes at Independent to be give to members of the community
- Dan Andress feels that he can distribute 5000 this way for us
- The young doctors will be attending the area in the coming weeks
- Golf tournament is coming along
- LIP networking was a success

Communications protocol

- When a director is approached by media please refer them to the executive
- The Chamber must appear to be unified in our responses
- Board should be notified about certain subjects, and if not sure do not comment
- The Chamber is the voice of all of the members; therefore the executive should handle the media
- The Chamber's opinion needs to be apolitical and unbiased
- Directors should not take on their own to contact the media or council without the knowledge of the executive and board

Action:

- **Compile a policy on communications**

Directors Running for Election

- Municipal elections
- OCC and CCC have different mandates
- When speaking at a function, the director running should ensure that what he said is considered his/her thoughts and opinions not those of the Chamber
- Whoever is running should not identify as a board member while speaking
- The board agreed that at the time of election and if the person is chosen for council the Chamber will deal with the situation at that time.

Motion

A motion was brought forward that the Smiths Falls Chamber has no issue with a director running for election. The candidate is not required to resign from the board.

Motioned: Cy Wells

Seconded: Kristine Fair

Strategic Planning Update

- A meeting was set up for May 27, 2014 at the Gallipeau Centre at 7:30 am
- All members of the committee have been given a copy of the Ontario Chambers Handbook from the OCC

DBA Dollars

- Deferred

Physician Recruitment

- A group of young professionals from Smiths Falls will greet and meet the group of first year students coming to Smiths Falls for a week
- During this time there have been events for the young doctors to participate in while visiting
- These events include, squash, golf, a tour of the town, and overnight in a caboose
- This will show the young doctors a side of Smiths Falls other than the hospital

Economic Development

- Tweed Inc is in the second round of funding
- The parking lot has cars from employees (great)
- It has been noted that the Visitor Information Signage needs to be clearly marked and visible on both the Chamber office and Victoria Park

Upcoming Board Meetings --

June 4, 2014

September 10, 2014

October 8, 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.