

Bonavista and Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes – January 17, 2017

Present: John Norman, Johanna Ryan-Guy, Albert Johnson, Linda Hogan, Renee Paul

Albert/Linda: Move the agenda be adopted.

Previous minutes not available at this time.

Business Arising

- Tourism committee met with Minister Mitchelmore and MHA King on Oct. 16 at the College of the North Atlantic to discuss issues and ideas pertaining to the region's tourism industry.
- Shane, David, Albert & Renee met with the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 18 at the Harbour Quarters conference room. Agenda's topics included: historical perspective, governance model, strategic plan, policy & advocacy, and member services.
- Requested financial reports were submitted to ACOA; payment will be issued this month.
- Chamber office was moved to larger space on 2nd floor of the Public Building in Bonavista. The least-cost option for phone/fax/internet was to keep all 3 services.
- An email was sent to board members to express interest in heading various subcommittees; Renee has created a table for the board to view to create/confirm subcommittees.

Correspondence and Action Items

- Received an email from one of our chamber members suggesting that we host a spring tourist expo. Will pass along to Shane, who heads the Tourism sub-committee.
- Received an email from event manager with Canadian Food Championships on how to possibly have our community participate in cooking contest.
- YMCA Business Advisor, Chelsey Paterson, will be in Bonavista on January 18-19 for one-on-one consultations with clients. She will also be hosting an Open House and a BDC Start Smart Session.
- Our peninsula's Steering Committee has accepted our invitation to speak at the Chamber's February board meeting. Need to confirm date with Ruth Weller-Malchow.
- Received an Open Call from Art Bonavista Productions Inc. inviting local artists to participate in an Open Studio event they are organizing as part of the Canada 150 project.
- Received an email from Libby Carew who is writing an Action Plan for NLOWE that focuses on ways to get more women participating in the provincial economy. John has been in touch and she would like to set up an event in this area. Renee will follow up.

New Business

A. Webpage/Logo update:

- Crystal F. is in the process of creating a new website. The domain is www.btrcc.ca. The board has suggested a clean white background, with tabs on top. A calendar of events and a twitter and/or Facebook feed be available on the homepage. A listing of members by community and business category, with a hyperlink to members' websites need to be included. Should also include our partners and what they offer, constitution and bylaws, board of directors, chamber fees, membership benefits, member-to-member deals/benefits and membership application.
- Crystal has also been working on the chamber's new logo and the board has approved (Renee will order business cards with logo and contact info).



B. Membership Update:

- Now have 101 members. There are some new businesses in the region that should be contacted to see if they are interested in joining the chamber.
- Should set up point person between board and chamber members.

C. Bank Balance:

- As of January 17, 2017, the actual cash in bank balance for the project account is \$99.84 (cheque book shows balance of \$49.84), the church street festival account is \$254.65 and the main account is \$2,389.99 (cheque book shows balance of \$2,070).

D. Business Inventory Database Update:

- Renee circulated progress to date.
- Renee will contact Dr. Simms to discuss invoicing.

E. Next Project (ACOA):

- Meeting with Nancy Robins and Chelsey Paterson on Jan. 18th at 7:00 pm.
- Project idea is to start up a business centre in which basic business services will be available. This will be phase 1. Will explore the addition of a regional economic development officer that can be shared with municipalities.

F. CBCD Proposal:

- Proposal written by Chelsey Paterson and submitted to CBDC and ACOA for approval, regarding the development of a business centre at the Public Building.

G. Christmas Social Update:

- The Social was a great success with tickets sold out (67 attendees).
- Including ticket sales to the social, raffle ticket sales and donations, total cash collected to date is \$3,041. Total costs so far are \$1,219.46 (have not yet received invoice for venue and wine).

H. AGM 2017:

- Will likely use the College again; they have the space that we need and it provides a great opportunity for the Cook and Bake students. Should ask College administrator to talk about upcoming programs.
- Will ask Minister Judy Foote to be guest speaker and will aim for mid April.

I. Other:

- *i.* Renee will contact all municipalities in the region to invite them to a joint meeting in order to discuss economic growth for the region. Will take place at the Seaport Inn on February 22nd at 6 pm. Will be a dinner meeting and will ask Seaport to provide small menu in which we could pre-order.
- *ii.* Should compile a list of non-members in the region and assign to board members to contact to see if there is an interest in joining the Chamber. Renee will be able to draw this information from the spreadsheet she is creating for the Business Database.
- *iii.* Will explore the possibility of hosting a valentine social. Propose to have it at Round Da Bay Inn and to have it on February 11th. Johanna will contact Chris and Karen.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 15 at the Trinity Bay North Town Hall.