

Bonavista and Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes – February 16, 2017

Present: John Norman, Albert Johnson, Linda Hogan, David Hiscock, Gina Little, Shane Hayes, Renee Paul

Albert/David: Move the agenda be adopted.

Linda/Shane: Move the adoption of the previous minutes as circulated.

Business Arising

- New website is well underway. New business cards, banner, window decal and signs are designed.
- John has been working on proposal for new project (Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem).

Correspondence and Action Items

- Spoke with Dr. Alvin Simms; will discuss invoicing later, will be small amount. Will meet with Renee on February 24. Will come out to the region to present the Harris Centre's work on our database once it is completed.
- Crystal Fudge has inquired if we will be using a new slogan; the board members will think about this.
- Renee will look into the cost of ordering key chains (or some other promotional items with the Chamber's new logo).
- Parks Canada has invited us to an information session on February 9th. David and Edith attended. It was announced that the repairs to the Ryan's Premises site will be finished in time to open for the upcoming season.
- Junior Achievement is looking for volunteers.
- Received an email from Ches Crosbie announcing his intent to run for PC leadership.
- The Livestock Production Seminar that was initially scheduled has been cancelled due to inclement weather.

New Business

A. Municipal Engagement Meeting Update:

- Have 21 attendees confirmed with representatives from: Keels, King's Cove, Trinity Bay North, Elliston, Trinity, Bonavista, Port Rexton, and our Chamber.
- Will have a dinner meeting at the Seaport Inn Fireside Dining. Will take place on February 22 at 6 pm. Meal options to include: Deep fried cod, hot turkey, club, fireside burger. Will set tables in horseshoe layout.

B. Membership Update:

- Now have 104. 5 new ones but lost 2.
- Exploits Home Care pulled their business out of the area but sent in a \$60 donation to the Chamber.

C. Bank Balance:

- Main account has a balance of \$3650. Project account has a balance of \$3750 that includes the amount of a \$50 outstanding cheque. Cheque has been outstanding since December 2015 and has now been cancelled.

D. Business Inventory Database Update:

- Renee will see if Alvin Simms can come out and provide an update mid-March and then come back to present when complete.

E. Census:

- Bonavista Peninsula has done reasonable well compared to other districts. The Packet has an article with further detail.
- There is a data error with the online census and is not reflecting correct numbers.

F. New Tourism Training Proposal:

- There are a few members interested in a day's training in "basic tourism training" and to go out and visit the different tourism operators in the region.
- Tourism committee will see how receptive ACOA is.
- **Motion made by Albert and seconded by Shane – all board in favour.**

G. ACOA/YMCA Proposal:

- John, Linda and Chelsey Paterson (YMCA) had a telephone conference with Nancy Robins (ACOA). Was advised to withdraw initial proposal, to just go bigger from the start, for us to take over office space on 2nd floor of public building to become a business centre (to offer meeting room, teleconference room, printing services, etc.). Will provide satellite services from partnered organizations/businesses. Also to create a business incubation space on the main floor of the public building.
- Can also have a project leader to be shared by municipalities and government funded.
- Chelsey and John are currently working on the proposal. Goal is to submit by mid-March and to start in June or July.

H. AGM 2017:

- Jamie Best confirmed that we could use the Bonavista CNA Campus.
- Renee will try to get confirmation if Minister Foote will be available.

I. Other:

- *i.* Eastern Health; staffing officer hours were to be cut back at Bonavista and moved to Clarendville. One employee had a lay-off notice. After some back and forth emails between Chamber, Minister of Health and VP of Eastern Health, decision is reserved. As well laundry services is no longer being moved.
- *ii.* CNA; Post-secondary advisory committee meeting next week. Will have update.
- *iii.* Office Equipment; need to purchase new monitor as that is all our budget allows.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 15 at the Bonavista Town Hall.