

Bonavista-Trinity Regional Chamber of Commerce Minutes – June 13, 2017

Present: John Norman, Linda Hogan, Gina Little, Edith Samson, Kim Boyce-Durdle, Johanna Ryan-Guy, Colleen Tinkham, Renee Paul and guest speaker Shelly Blackmore

Corina/Linda: Move the agenda be adopted.

Linda/Johanna: Move the adoption of the previous minutes and February 16 minutes as circulated.

Update on OCI's Former Fish Processing Plant in Port Union

- Shelly Blackmore, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Trinity Bay North provided an update on the future of OCI's former fish processing plant in Port Union, in which the municipality has purchased.
- The Municipality has an interested party in selling/leasing the plant to a seal processor but they first need approval? From provincial government.
- In April the Municipality of TBN prepared a submission to Minister Eddy, department of Municipal Affairs. Was told that it was close to submission but after some back and forth, nothing has been finalized and then there was no response from the department. They plan to have a conference call in 2 weeks' time; the municipality is optimistic of positive results. They feel that now would be a good opportunity to move forward with refurbishing the plant, a chance to put people to work that have been affected by the pack ice. OCI is also now wondering when things are going to be finalized. TBN is losing out on potential revenues (business tax, for example); do not understand the hold up as there should not be a competitive impact as the province currently only harvests 1/8 of the industry quota. They also have the market ready to move the project.
- The Chamber suggest to wait the two week period and if there is still nothing, move forward with action.

Business Arising

- *See New Business*

Correspondence and Action Items

- Hike Discovery want us to share their summer schedule – however, they (as well as some of the businesses they are promoting) are not members of the chamber; will see if they want to join the chamber or partner with the chamber.
- DAGI (Discovery Aspiring Geopark Inc.) had an event, *Talk with Jack Matthews*, at the Seaport Inn conference room on June 8th in which the chamber coordinated. There were 32 attendees.
- The chamber has partnered with Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, ACOA and TCII to host a Lean Manufacturing Information Session on June 21 at the Garrick annex from 9 to 10:30 am.
- Renee and John had a teleconference with NLOWE Board Director Sarah Lynn Russell on June 6.
- Kate Lachey will be hosting an Inclusivity Workshop on June 15 at 9 am at the Boreal Diner. Chamber will help promote event.
- John, Renee, David and Mayor Betty Fitzgerald initially met with Justin Campbell of the Association for New Canadians (ANC) on March 27 to explore hosting a round table discussion on newcomers. The round table took place on May 15 at the Garrick Conference Centre. There were 40 + people in attendance.
- The chamber partnered with Legendary Coasts to host a network event for National Tourism Week. The event started with a brunch at Mifflin’s Tea Room. Then there was a talk at the Garrick Annex. This was followed by a hike with Tuckamore Discoveries.
- The chamber now administers to the coordination and scheduling of training sessions/consultations with business advisor Chelsey Paterson. She was here on June 3rd.
- Received email from Inclusion NL – they have funding available to increase accessibility in the workplace.
- Received an email from Edith, recommending the Chamber to host a new summer student program, AMPLIFY, by the Community Sector Council.

New Business

A. Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Proposal:

- Submitted to ACOA.
- The project will include the following:
 - 1) Capture and promote the rich start-up activity taking place on the Peninsula in an effort to further grow the number of start-ups on the peninsula
 - 2) Establish an interim Entrepreneurship Support Centre that offers supports, training and networking opportunities for new businesses, existing businesses and social enterprises operating in the region
 - 3) Implement Tourism Atlantic’s STAR (Strategic Tourism for Areas and Regions) process for the tip of the Bonavista Peninsula
 - 4) Analyze the current facility to identify the costs in converting the space into an innovative, leading edge Entrepreneurship Support Centre – a space to facilitate and

encourage networking, collaboration, foster and support start up activity and provide enhanced services to existing small business and social enterprise.

B. CNA:

- The culinary school is frozen for the year. Advisory committee have had deep discussion with Minister Byrne and the president of CNA (Elizabeth Kidd – she is coming to Bonavista on June 27 to explore opportunity. Will discuss viability of 2nd year culinary program to her).

C. Eastern Health:

- Steering committee recently met and expressed their concern over lack of communication/relationship. Things have since greatly improved. Now working on emergency room functionality. Will be receiving over 1 million for new emergency room. Will be breaking ground this fall and more positive things to come.

D. Small Business Week:

- Chamber is partnering with NLOWE, Futurpreneur, BDC and CBDC to host a series of events during Small Business Week in October.

E. Administration Update:

- Will use prorated fees for membership; will be determined when the member joins (only affects 1st year).

F. Training/Networking/Information Sessions:

- Have discussed a number of ideas with Chelsey Paterson. Will coordinate with her monthly visits for consultation sessions.
- One suggestion is to have a member host the networking session and then they can share some do's and don'ts through their experience.

G. Partnerships:

- Discovery Aspiring Geopark Inc. (DAGI) – their objective is to develop a World UNESCO geopark which will be only the 3rd in North America. There are 133 in the world. There will be multiple sites in the region. They have recently been approved for funding and can move forward. They will be hiring staff; DAGI board would like to partner with the chamber and split use of staff person (Renee) until at least September. This will mean significant increase in the tourism industry and in turn, local business; a great enhancement for economic development.
- YMCA – this partnership is still continuing through the satellite service provided by business advisor Chelsey Paterson.
- Legendary Coasts – the chamber will become a member of Legendary Coasts and they will become a member of BTRCC in lieu of paying membership fees.

- Hike Discovery – Edith will follow up with Jim Miller to see if they want to become a member of BTRCC and us a member of Hike Discovery in lieu of paying membership fees.
- Church Street Festival – as this is a business festival, it will make a good fit with the chamber.

H. Promoting our Chamber and Website:

- We need to get our information and our site out to businesses.

I. Role of the Board Member:

- The role of the board member is to sell the chamber, to grow our membership and to encourage entrepreneurship.

J. Other:

- *i.* Conferences – This is an important role the chamber can play, we can try to recruit businesses/organizations to host conferences here on the region. For example, there is a provincial conference coming up in October that we can try to attract.

Next meeting: To be Announced