

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

Present: John Norman, Linda Hogan, Gina Little, Edith Samson, Kim Boyce-Durdle, Johanna Ryan-Guy, Colleen Tinkham, Corina Ryder and Renee Paul

Edith/Linda: Move the agenda be adopted.

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

Business Arising

- *See New Business*

Correspondence and Action Items

- Renee spoke with Justin from the Association for New Canadians. They requested a letter of support as they are looking to open a satellite office outside of the Avalon (considerations are Bonavista, Clarenville, Gander, Grand Falls).
- BTRCC administered to a summer student program (AMPLIFY) over the summer in which we were able to provide a student each to 8 of our member businesses. This pilot program was offered by the Community Sector Council and was quite successful.
- Renee is co-ordinating with Chelsey Paterson to offer business consultations over the upcoming weekend (Sept. 16-17).
- BTRCC partnered with CBDC, BDC, NLOWE, YMCA, and Futurepreneur to host a business mixer at the Port Rexton Brewery on July 10th and an information session brunch at Shannon's Pub and Grill on July 11th.
- On Aug. 5, as part of the Church Street Festival, Chelsey Paterson hosted a casual panel discussion on creative economies in rural environments.
- 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. CNA President:

- Post-Secondary Advisory committee met back July with the interim President; current programs at Bonavista campus are near full; operating well, especially in comparison with other campuses (Plumbing now gone from central).
- Met with Minister Al Hawkins a couple weeks ago speaking about the importance of the college in relation to the future of the region.
- New president was appointed last week; having met with him previously, optimistic that he will be receptive to a stronger college and having the culinary school reinstated. BTRCC will ask Jamie Best to set up a meeting between us and the new president.

B. Eastern Health ER Department:

- Primary Health Advisory committee has been working closely with Eastern Health over the past year or so. Staff have been looking for support for a new Emergency Department (meanwhile the Dialysis committee is cluing up and will start fundraising; Fundraising is going to cover half the costs and Eastern Health will match, dollar for dollar. Won't be a problem to get. Announcement coming, likely in October.

C. Membership Update:

- There are now 125 members.
- Renee will put something together so that the directors can focus on attracting new members.

D. Financial Update:

- There is currently \$3,200 available in the bank. There is approximately \$2,000 owing from membership fees and the AMPLIFY program.

E. ACOA/BTCII Proposal:

- ACOA has signed off; still waiting on approval from provincial.
- BTRCC is required to come up with 10 percent, or 45,000. Townscape has a piece built into proposal for a study of the public building so Townscape will kick in \$7500. Also built in is the STAR program (80,000 and pushed by ACOA; \$8,000 need to come from this).

F. Harris Centre Population Report:

- The Harris Centre forecasts a decline in the province's population over the next 20 years; while some other regions are predicted to drop up to 40%. And while some comparable areas to our region are predicted to drop by 20 %, the Bonavista region is predicted to drop by about 8%.

J. Other:

- *i.* Legendary Coasts – Will be holding their AGM on October 17th at the Rising Tide Theatre in Trinity. BTRCC board members are invited to attend.
- ii.* Discovery Aspiring Geopark Inc. (DAGI) – Will be holding their first AGM on October 12 at the College of the North Atlantic. BTRCC board members are encouraged to attend.
- iii.* Small Business Week - BTRCC are partnering with CBDC, BDC, NLOWE, YMCA and Futurepreneur once again to offer a series of events during Small Business Week. On Oct. 18 there will be an information session on the various funding agencies, followed in the evening by the showing of Greg Hemming's independent film. On Oct. 19 there will be an Accounting 101 workshop, followed by a Facebook for Business workshop.
- iv.* Tourism - need more training for front line staff, especially students, is this something the Chamber could run? Need better information centre; better location, perhaps have an adult staffed there.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11th, Coaker Building