

Sheet Harbour & Area Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs
April 6, 2013 - MINUTES
10:00 am, Lion's Centre

Present: Tom McInnis, Dawn Howe-Power, George Child, Janice Christie, , Sandy Moser, Robert Moser, Art MacKenzie, Ralph LeBlanc, Marilyn Munroe, Marike Finlay, Randall Holman, Wayne Malay, Neil Parnell , Gordie Holman, Tom McNair, Helen Pinfield, Terrance Rutledge, Jim Lowe, Brenda McInnis, Troy Strang, Ed Empringham, Deanna Currie, Denise Somers, Terry McLeod, Warren Parsons, Mary Sidney, Patricia Holman, Eugene Holman, Jeff Hogg, Cst Jason Blanchard, Cpl Mike Flanagan, and *unintelligible*. Regrets: Andy Wright

1. President Tom McInnis called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He thanked everyone for coming. Membership approved the minutes of March 3 , 2013 as circulated.
2. There was no business arising from the minutes.
3. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARTS SOCIETY:

- Sandy Moser reported that the Art Sale and Exhibit will be held the third weekend in July.
- Artists work will be exhibited in the local Library over the coming months
- Sandy is in charge of the Silent Auction for the Banquet. Please give your donations to either Brenda or Sandy.

HERITAGE SOCIETY:

- John Wood absent. Last meeting was cancelled.
- Tom put out the request for new members who are interested in the heritage and history of the community.

MACPHEE HOUSE/TOURISM:

- Cathy Farris absent. Dawn Howe-Power has job description ready to be posted ; awaiting funding approval. They are also working on getting seniors to participate.
- Wayne Malay noted that the Boardwalk requires repair. Rocks needs to be moved to provide support ... which is labour intensive. Approval is required from HRM. David Hendsbee gave a \$1,000 cheque at Christmas time for the wreaths and for the boardwalk repair.
- Jeff Hogg spoke about the VIC and the alarm bell and the monitoring system. The phone is seasonal and turned off. A \$200 donation was made from a Mr. Harnish for phone. HRM had closed the Centre and C of C took it over. There were over 5000 visitors last season.

MARINA:

- Marilyn Munroe (Cathy Farris absent) stated that with her last meeting with Jim Boudreau they had discussed funds for a feasibility study.

- Marilyn spoke of the 'boat traffic' that travels the Eastern Shore every season, looking for services.
- The committee will set up as a Society or an Association . They have sent out requests for people who are interested in a Marina or Boating Association. One of the objectives of Tourism is getting more tourists on the Eastern Shore.... a Marina is one of the steps of accomplishing that. The possibility exists that we could be the "Vancouver" of the Eastern Shore with proper development.
- Jeff suggested that the Marina could be promoted to the youth through the parents. There is so much opportunity using our natural resources: Outfitting; Boat Tours; Kayak Rentals; etc.
- Tom spoke of the seven phases of the Ekistics Plan. A Marina is one of the phases. (This is not a 'Boat Club'.....It is a Marina). Neil Parnell spoke of the potential that is here. Tom suggested that the study be conducted to analyze more than one potential site.

TAYLOR HEAD SOCIETY:

- Warren Parsons is the president of the Friends of Taylor Head. Over the past four years they have worked with the provincial Parks Dept. The park is being used more and appreciated more.
- The park has many unique qualities which are promoted on the website - Google : Friends of Taylor Head
- He invites everyone out for bird watching. Jim Cameron is an excellent Leader/Botanist .
- He will send the link for their Activity List to Janice to send out to membership
- He commented on the diversity of the Chamber.....from Sidewalks to Bird Watching !
- Their involvement with Dept of Natural Resources does not displace any of their work
- 3-4 years ago \$30,000 was spent on upgrading the trails, etc. Park people recognize that we are woefully underfunded.
- Working with Natural Resources and showing people what we have here.
- The 'dues' that are collected is spent on Insurance. All the rest that is accomplished is completed by volunteers.
- They have been successful in the extension of the season. The Park stays open until the 4-5 of December . The gate is opened and the cleaning of toilets and picking up of garbage is done by volunteers.
- He expects it will be Open May 4th...two weeks before any other park in NS. (Depending on road condition)
- The Highway cleanup will take place the end of April.
- The road was graded twice last year.
- Ed Empringham suggested we need to investigate "insurance possibilities"under the umbrella of Chamber of Commerce?
- Warren stated that due to so many productive Chamber 'groups' they are trying not to ask for money.
- He spoke of flyers printed and distributed by the Province....for B and Bs , etc, as a MAP for guests to NS . He would like to see it put on the website electronically. He will see if Cathy Milner has extras.

- They also do some Geo-caching.
- Call or E-mail Warren anytime!
- Tom thanked All the Volunteers!

MULTI-PURPOSE COMMITTEE:

- Tom stated that this is another phase in the overall plan.
- Tom read a series of e-mails from the Chair of the School Board discussing the impending announcement of a new P-12 to replace DMHS and its family of schools.
- Site selection will be conducted by a committee set up for this purpose.
- The plan continues to be to have the Multi Purpose Facility and new Library connected which would serve the both the school and the community of the Eastern Shore.

PORT COMMITTEE:

- George Child reported that the committee met with Halifax Port Authority to discuss questions such: as new customers and wharf and labour ; very competitive in their prices.
- George said he feels encouraged.
- Wayne Malay stated they attend meetings all over the world , Trade Shares, etc, to promote Halifax and Sheet Harbour port inclusively.
- \$75,000 was spent on scale and improving lighting. They have a mandate to get ships in here and they will.
- Neil inquired if the Irving group will have any impact on the port?

SHAD:

- No report

HEALTH AND HOSPITAL:

- Cathy Farris absent.
- The community committee is being pro-active as to what services are available to the residents of the Shore.

GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE:

- Neil Parnell, retired RCMP after 35 years, is a member of the local Ground Search and Rescue Local Team. This is now province wide and there is a Project Life Saver which is specific to tracking Alzheimer and autistic persons. There are 24 teams in the province.
- Everyone is currently trained out of the US. They now have the green light to register clients
- Clients will have a radio transmitter that will operate 24/7 - 365 days/year that will give out a signal.
- There are three tracking devises that can pick up a transmission.
- There was on-going training since last May.....Now they are ready.
- Emergency Providers and Autism representatives are coming down for a meeting next week with the 50 members.
- There is lots of experience and trained personnel .
- They are looking for a 'home of their own' to keep their equipment

- They offer programs through Parks and Recreation such as maps and compass; GPS; Wilderness Survival.
- The group is on-going and growing.
- JEM: Joint Emergency Management for Sheet Harbour and Area.
- A website is in progress.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Jeff Hogg reported a current balance of \$16, 833.00
- He paid three bills this week: \$7,750 (after a deposit of same amount) re: Feasibility Study of Transportation issue.
- SHAD: \$1,485 and \$1,375
- Jeff, Wayne and Ralph have formed the finance committee.
- Jeff requests some training in the Simply Accounting process to assist him with the Chamber bookkeeping.
- Jeff noted that there is \$14,000 at HRM that needs to be compensated back to us re: Mowing

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Tom noted that the Duncan MacMillan Nursing Home is currently being called 'Harbourview Lodge'. He said that Dr. MacMillan and Annie E. MacDonald, and many residents of the day, along with Premier MacDonald, worked very hard to get the ESMH in 1949 and the new school in 1963. The MacMillan family is not pleased with the removal of the MacMillan name. Tom suggested we should give some thought to a 'Honour Row of Residents' who have helped build the community.
- Tom stated that the Board of Directors met with the 'Nova Scotia Commission on the Future economic Development of Rural Nova Scotia'. We presented what we have done, what arrests poverty, and maintaining our institutions. They posed five questions. One was what proved to be our obstacles. Tom suggested it was the lack of will on the part of the Public Service to assist us. Another was transportation. The 107 highway has not moved since 1993.
- He said there are a lot of people connected with this Chamber who have excellent plans and ideas as to how we can build our economy on the Eastern Shore. How best can we go forward? He suggested a FORUM here to discuss how we can build our communities.
- Tom said he is aware of and cognizant of, here on the Eastern Shore, a tendency of the imposition of things here without consultation. Tom attended a presentation and read the manual twice and has concerns about content. He is looking for consultation. He invited Jimmy Lowe, President of BoT in Moser River. Policy decisions are being made in May, one month away, re: "Our Parks and Protected Areas". There are ideas that we can come up with: How do we create jobs? Why is it that all this work is done... we are introduced to it on Wednesday and the decision is made in four weeks time. He says to the Department: "Give us the opportunity to meet with you. We are proactive...(and then provided examples)." He stated that he was disappointed that once again, there was no consultation at this end.
- Ralph LeBlanc moved that the Chamber of Commerce have the right to write the Minister of Natural Resources to hold out until December 31 in

making decisions to allow us the opportunity to sit with them to give them our case re: creation of jobs, in particular as it relates to Eastern Shore land holdings. Robert Moser seconded the motion. Approved.

- Tom said that National Parks create hundreds of jobs. ie: Liscomb Game Sanctuary; Taylor Head, Islands and ecosystem there. Could there be a National Park along the Eastern Shore? It would boost the economy. It is an opportunity. Parks Canada has modified its approach.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Cpl Flanagan spoke of the local RCMP staff. The member on maternity leave is back and they are back up to full complement.
- The new DA is Bonita Fox.
- Jason Blanchard is being transferred.
- New member fresh from the Arctic: Evan Whye.
- Phone system at detachment: Voicemail has now been switched over that it will ring three times...local will answer or default to telephone response unit in Halifax. Message passed on to member of duty or on call.
- Crime is down everywhere 40-50%.
- Upcoming: Preparing for Fishing Season.
- Suspected growth of Marijuana?? : Call RCMP. They have access to plain clothes officers and drug officers, etc.
- They are currently analyzing crime data. They are being pro-active in putting policing in place in high crime areas based on analysis.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jeff Hogg stated: The plan has been submitted re: rebuilding and rerouting the East River Bridge.
- Under approval

Tom McNair called for adjournment.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 10:00 am at Sheet Harbour Lion's Centre.

Respectively Submitted

Janice Christie
Recording Officer

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Saturday, May 4, 2013 , 10:00 a.m.; Lions Centre

ADJOURNMENT: _____ called for adjournment.

Respectively Submitted
Janice C. Christie
Recording Officer