

# SHEET HARBOUR & AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CIVIC AFFAIRS

(CCA)

October5, 2013 MINUTES

In Attendance: Dawn Howe-Power, Ralph LeBlanc, Andy Wright, Patricia Holman, Eugene Holman, Jack Marshall, George Child, Meryl Atkinson, Wayne Malay, Jeffrey Hogg, Ed Empringham, Dan Creelman, Sandy Moser, Tom McInnis

Tom McInnis called the meeting to order at 10:10am, welcoming everyone. Due to double booking at the Lions CentrePM, the meeting location was changed to the Masonic Hall.

2- Tom requested an addition to the agenda regarding the 2013 tree lighting, parade and lighting exchange. Motion was made by Ralph Le Blanc, seconded by Dawn Howe-Power to accept the agenda and addition.

3- Minutes from the Sept4, 2013 meeting were not available

4- No new business arising

## **5- Committee Reports**

### **Art Society-**

Sandy Moser provided updated info regarding the Friends of Taylors Head Park. This year the park will be opened until the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December. The group is applying for an Tians crystal Tourism award and would appreciate a letter of support from the Chamber as well as from individuals. Info sent out by email.

(Noting the attached documentation, the deadline for this years' nomination was Oct11, 2013. Perhaps this could be considered for 2014).

### **Finance Report-**

George Child reported that Jeffrey Hogg purchased accounting software from the Gerald Hardy Organization.

### **Heritage Society-**

Tom McInnis reported that John Wood is no longer actively involved with the museum in MacPhee House other than cataloguing items on display. The Chamber is looking for someone to step forward to take over this duty. Janice Malay has all recent emails recd by John Wood for review and contact information. This is available for anyone interested in this position.

### **MacPhee House/ Tourism -**

Ralph Le Blanc read the report for Kathy Farris, who was not in attendance. The report outlined statistical information regarding the Visitor Centre. PN the attached report. The number of number of visitors reduced to 2904 in 2013 from 4000 in 2012.

A general discussion followed this report noting the reduction in available grants resulting in MacPhee House running in deficit. The future of MacPhee House as a Visitor Center is doubtful.

Sandy Moser mentioned that a luncheon meeting is planned by Tians at Liscombe Lodge October 22, 2013 to discuss tourism and the Eastern Shore. There will also be a dinner from 6 to 8pm (buffet) for \$25 as well as special room rate of \$69 for those staying overnight. There was a "secret traveler", Roger Brooks, travelling around Eastern Shore this past summer. He will be reporting on his findings during his travels and suggesting possible marketing improvements. Sandy will be attending, as well as Meryl Atkinson. If you would like to attend the contact number is 1 877- 816-2326 for more information.

Regarding tourism and the Sheet Harbour area, Tom McInnis suggested that a committee of the Chamber be formed to discuss possible tourist attractions to draw visitors to this area. Sandy Moser volunteered to head this committee as long as others were willing to help. Meryl Atkinson volunteered to help with this. This committee would also meet with other interested groups/parties in HRM and the province.

### **Marina-**

Don MacDonald reported that the last meeting was September 9, 2013 and the next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2013. Three locations are being considered. Fuel installation and land development are 2 issues to consider. There will not be a decision made next year. It's necessary to determine the number of local boaters who would use the facility. At the marina in Baddeck, most Americans leave their boats there for the winter.

Wayne Malay added that Neil Parnell could provide info re boat traffic from the RCMP.

### **Multi- purpose Facility-**

Tom McInnis stated that we are waiting for the school announcement which will not happen until after the election.

### **Port Committee-**

Wayne Malay reported that the Halifax Port Authority is traveling internationally to promote Halifax and Sheet Harbour ports. It's estimated that marine traffic Sheet Harbour will increase over the next year. Meeting of POSH (Port of Sheet Harbour) will take place next week, October 18, 2013. Tom advised that he attended the Port Days in Halifax and had it confirmed that they are certain of increase traffic to Sheet Harbour.

### **SHADC( Sheet Harbour Area Development Corp)-**

Wayne had nothing new to report. Mowing is pretty well finished for the season. Some sidewalk repair will be completed shortly.

### **Tree Lighting/ LED Exchange/ parade-**

Dawn Howe-Power and Ruby Gammon will check into the light exchange. We must register with NS Power for this light exchange.

Ralph Le Blanc will look into having additional lights put on the tree by MacPhee House. Date for the parade and tree lighting TBD. HRM to be contacted re the availability of the HRM Christmas float.

### **Marketing ( DEANS and TIANS)**

Sandy Moser suggested that we consider attending the Saltscape Expo. We should consider paying to set up a good display representative of this area, including arts and crafts, restaurants and accommodation.

Another marketing opportunity is advertising in “The Doers and Dreamer’s Guide for the Eastern Shosre”. The circulation for this paper is 30,000 paper copies. There are time restrictions for signing up. The cost for this advertising is \$1665, the first payment due in Oct 25 (50%) and the second in Nov.

There followed a general discussion regarding possible marketing opportunities/ publications.

### **President’s report**

#### **Re new East River bridge:**

Rebuild of new bridge will take 2 yrs and will start in the spring.

3<sup>rd</sup> year tear down the old bridge

Cost in excess of \$50 million

Sidewalks will continue down to new bridge.

#### **Re NS Chamber of Commerce**

NS Chamber of Commerce is no longer a member of the Atlantic Chambers of Commerce. It has joined the NS Boards of Trade. Each chamber is being contacted re joining the NS Board of Trade. So far ¾ of chambers have agreed.

**Memory Wall** Letter to be written for the time capsule. Tom asked for a volunteer to write the letter.

#### **Wildlife Club**

The Wildlife Club is doing due diligence in attempting to preserve and protect the campground. There may be a group to take it over rather than have the property sold and repurposed. Campground should be maintained as a campground.

#### **Comments re RV park and marina**

Tom mentioned that both these facilities were included in the report from Ekistics.

**Next meeting** - Saturday, November 2, 2013 @ Sheet Harbour Lions Centre.

Sandy Moser moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:20am.

Respectively Submitted

Janice Malay for Janice Christie (Recording Officer)

PN: The following documents will be available at the next meeting

- Paperknight Publishing Ltd
- Email re Tians Crystal award