

Sheet Harbour & Area Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs
January 9, 2013 - MINUTES
7:30 pm, Lion's Centre

Present: John Wood, Dawn Howe-Power, Jack Marshall, George Child, Janice Christie, Cathy Farris, Anthony Farris, Sheila Martin, Erin Boutilier, Sandy Moser, Robert Moser, Art MacKenzie, Harold Taylor, Ralph LeBlanc, Marilyn Munroe, Doug Stein, Glenda Stein, Marike Finlay, Jeff Hogg, Helen Miller, Kay Boutilier, Myrene Keating-Owen, Randall Holman, Meryl Atkinson, Ruby Gammon, Wayne Malay, Andy Wright, Neil Parnell.

1. President Tom McInnis called the meeting to order at 7:30. He thanked everyone for coming. Sandy Moser approved the minutes of November 7, 2012 as circulated.
2. Tom asked if there are any members who would be interested in joining the board of directors. They generally meet just prior to the meetings. The Nominating Committee, under the direction of Ralph LeBlanc, is preparing for the Annual General Meeting in February, 2013. Everyone is welcome and the board can always use your assistance.
3. Tom gave the members an overview of his new responsibilities within the Senate. He said a study had been completed on rural communities which looks into holding off on the collapse of rural communities. He stated that less than 20% live in rural Canada and 80% live in Urban areas. With that said, the mission is to maintain what we have and build to stabilize our community.
4. Tom discussed the seven phases of the Chamber objectives. He discussed what the communities have accomplished collectively re: the Sidewalks and beautification of the business core. Future phases include the multi-purpose centre, waterfront development, and a marina.
5. Tom discussed the process for continuing working towards obtaining a new school and perhaps the multi-purpose facility being affiliated. The location of the school is to be determined, at the appropriate time by a committee struck for that purpose.
6. Cathy Farris under the auspices of the Chamber requested the Drop Box from Ekistics for the Chamber website that would illustrate the three dimensions of the Plan (Marina and Waterfront, MacPhee House, Art Park, etc) . Marike Finlay said she will forward the Link to the members. Discussion took place re: Prioritize: What do we want to see happen? Reference Ekistics. We should be shovel ready by 2014. When another fund is available...we need to be ready to utilize it.
7. Sandy noted that regarding the Art Park the Art Association has not continued with the trails, etc. She questioned who owns the land? Will it be signed over to the C of C?
8. The Marina Project is under the committee of Cathy and Anthony Farris, Marike Finlay, Marilyn Munroe, Wayne Malay and _____. They will look at the Ekistics report and begin to prioritize.
9. Doug Stein questioned who had started a marina in 1993...?
10. re: Fixed Office for C of C:
 - difficult for volunteers to do it all
 - require a person to work full time
 - currently there is no 'one' to develop and promote this area
 - require government support here
 - mission in 2013 - not to be left behind
 - we are a 'Chamber' and ALL volunteers
 - where could a fixed office be located?

11. Consolidation of various social organizations efforts? Could we work towards one goal?
We are a catchment area of close to 5000....
12. Jeff Hogg noted the cost of maintaining so many buildings...upkeep, insurance, utilities...Run the risk of Volunteer burnout. Perhaps promote a shared objective.
13. Marike Finlay suggested the necessity of:
 - communicating with the people of the Shore
 - as well as the involvement of seasonal residents.
 - What do we currently do for them?
 - How can they be included?
 - We need to think of development through technology.
 - Get the baby boomers to come back
 - Do a media campaign in Dartmouth and Halifax
 - Promote "Coming home for the Weekend" and/or "Summer"
 - Consider retiring here
 - Set up an Internet Business on the Shore
 - Communication could help increase the population base of the area
14. Greater Business and Community Involvement: In 2013 Tom stated
 - he is committed to contacting Sobeys, Irving, etc... to come to the meetings .
 - He said every business in town should be invited to attend.
 - "What we (Chamber of Commerce) do... is to be better for the community as a whole".
 - We must let people know what we do and are about.
15. Sandy Moser suggested inviting Mayor Mike Savage and other people to attend our next Town Hall meeting.
16. Doug Stein questioned what business was covered at the Board of Directors meetings held prior to the monthly meetings. He suggested the information be brought forth to the general meetings for the members at large. Tom explained that mostly committee reports are given , which are then repeated at the meetings....but everyone is invited to join the board of directors if they are interested.
17. Maybe a Chamber Newsletter could be distributed?
18. A Town Hall meeting in March or April?
19. **The AGM will be held February 6, 2013**
20. Janice read a letter addressed to the Chamber, from Mr. Chris Harnish of Augusta, ME who had visited the area in July:
 - He enclosed a donation of \$200 towards the seasonal phone number at the MacPhee House Visitor Information Centre.
 - He was very complimentary of the community and the scenic beauty of the area
 - He made special note and was very appreciative of the helpfulness of the staff at MacPhee House.
 - He and his family (and *hopefully* their beagle, *Sarah*, who is 15 years old!) will return in July of 2013.
21. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Saturday, March 2, 2013 , 10:00 a.m.; Lions Centre**
22. ADJOURNMENT: Sandy Moser called for adjournment.

Respectively Submitted
Janice C. Christie
Recording Officer

