

Sheet Harbour & Area Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs
May 4, 2013 - MINUTES
10:00 am, Lion's Centre

Present: Tom McInnis, Dawn Howe-Power, George Child, Janice Christie , Sandy Moser, Art MacKenzie, Marilyn Munroe, Wayne Malay, Tom McNair, Helen Pinfield, Terry Rutledge, Jim Lowe, Brenda McInnis, Deanna Currie, Warren Parsons, Mary Sidney, Jeff Hogg, Cathy Farris, Norma McLeod, Don MacDonald, Doug Stein, Sue Levy, Doug Keating, Meryl Atkinson, Mark Krause, Jack Marshall, Anthony Turner, John Wood, Scott Cunningham, Bridget Boutilier, Ralph LeBlanc, and guest Kara Allen (DEANS) .

- President Tom McInnis called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- He thanked everyone for coming. He thanked Wade Owen for emptying garbage cans, noted there is a caller (Deanna) for the desserts for the banquet.
- Membership approved the minutes of April 6 , 2013 as circulated.
- Art MacKenzie approved the agenda and Ralph LeBlanc seconded.
- Tom welcomed Kara Allen from Deans who will be given the opportunity to speak.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- The banquet tickets are on sale for \$30 pp / \$50 a couple; available from Brenda or Wanda Purcell.
- Mayor Mike Savage will be the Guest Speaker and there will be no dance.
- Deanna Currie will contact membership for dessert donations.
- Janice Christie will purchase all supplies and prepare garden salad and roast beef dinner;
- Sandy Moser looking after Silent Auction items;
- Norma McLeod will look after decorations for hall
- Brenda has the gift to present to the mayor.
- The Art Association donated a gift basket with \$200 worth of gifts.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARTS SOCIETY:

- Sandy Moser reported
- The painting group of six artists will be at the Library for May;
- June: Rug hooking display;
- July: Quilting;
- August: Fritz and Ruth Muller / Painting;
- September: Photography.

HERITAGE SOCIETY:

- John Wood stated that on May 18th the Heritage Society would be hosting an Open House at Harbourview Lodge and will be introducing the Society to the Lodge. Wayne Henley will be speaking.
- In June there will be a visit to the site of the Lewiston Peg Factory.
- There will be Door Prizes and Picture Frames of Exhibits in MacPhee House

- Something of interest: Our site is linked through the Association of Nova Scotia Museum and we are the third highest site visited in the province through that link.
- They are hoping to get their own site through senior students who are tech savvy.

MACPHEE HOUSE/TOURISM:

- Cathy Farris stated that she received a provincial student grant for 9.2 weeks....June 28 - August 30th
- A notice has been placed at Job Search Services Centre
- The grade 12s at DMHS (who are going on to university) have been notified.
- They have a 10% drop in funding
- Open - 3 June to end of August. Job Manager posted at Job Search Services. Open to all applicants.
- 3 months @ \$11 per hour/ 30 hour weeks.
- Applying for Star Employment Program which is a provincial employment experience for people to build skills for the work force. We could be eligible for funding for three months.
- HRM gave report completed by an engineering company. They gave a capital plan regarding needs of MacPhee House to keep it maintained. They have a plan for the long term.
- There is no word yet re: Federal Student Grants.
- Suggestion: Invite Mayor Savage in to see MacPhee House? John Wood could host the tour.
- DEAN has provided FAM tours . There are four tours and Cathy will apply for the VIC employees to go on the tours.
- Terry Rutledge has put the bird houses and the planters up.
- HRM gives us their 'left over' plants....Ralph LeBlanc will pick them up. Brenda suggested Councillor Hendsbee or Heidi?
- Wayne Malay stated that MacPhee House is a 'not for profit' organization. We do not get capital dollars for MacPhee House, It is all volunteer work. The building needs work.

MARINA:

- Cathy Farris informed the group that there are currently 14 members on the Marina Committee. There is currently no funding available from the MLA as the budget runs to March 31st. They are hoping to get provincial funding for the Feasibility Study.
- Is there a possibility of a corporate sponsor? Pepsi? Frito Lay? Bens?
- The Committee will be meeting at 6 pm in the Board Room at ESMH on May 21st.
- They have obtained valuable information from other marinas (Sea Rover) and the one in Bridgewater.

TAYLOR HEAD SOCIETY:

- Warren Parsons stated that the park opened today through to December thanks to the volunteers. Previous week a highway cleanup was completed for the third year. They take out a 1/2 ton truck and there is 1

1/2 loads of garbage and they clean up twice a year. Sandy inquired about "Do Not Litter" signs and the \$500 fine? Warren said the campground supplied coffee and doughnuts to the workers.

PORT COMMITTEE:

- George Child reported there are no developments as of late. Halifax Port Authority is working to get business here. Tom stated that HPA always has an inventory of projects they'd like to get here. He will discuss with George and Wayne Capital Projects that will utilize the port later on. There will be requirements for cranes and buildings for storage. They are currently working on that and are waiting for information to present to ACOA.

SHAD:

- Wayne Malay reported that the lawnmower man will be fertilizing sods along sidewalks and ESC will be looking after repair of sods after the winter.
- Repair should be done by the end of the winter.
- To replace the Japanese pear tree would be as much as \$540 installed.
- Truro: The Tree Guy (Possible replacement)
- There is another tree across from Lawton's that has broken limbs. They can be removed and the Tar substance may be applied to prevent tree infection.
- Mary Sidney stated there are three broken trees: across from Lawton's; across from Fire Hall; and In front of Anke's B&B. Mary , Wayne and Norma will discuss as to how to repair.
- Tom suggested we meet with the police to discuss vandalism; needs to be communicated; communicate with homeowners and ask them to be on watch; thank Wade Owen and Norma McLeod for emptying the garbage cans, Make this a public issue and watch for vandals and Report them.
- Wayne stated that \$3,500 was spent on Lawn mowing wages and \$700 on gas.
- Norma suggested a card be sent to Wade and Dag for emptying the trash cans. Cathy said if it is out of the can and on the side of the road...ESC will pick it up.

NS CHAMBER:

- Ralph LeBlanc attended two meetings of the NS Chamber of Commerce
- The dealings with the Atlantic Chamber is not going well as there seems to be little consultation.
- The NS Chamber voted unanimously to leave the Atlantic Chamber.
- They may rejoin under new leadership
- The NS C of C is now an entity on its own.
- Tom felt this was a wise move. Still covered under insurance.

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY FORUM:

- Susan Levy was following this forum on-line on Facebook since it was announced in November.
- She kept asking them : When are you coming ? They informed her that they had been here a couple of weeks ago.
- Susan stated that she was perturbed as she felt there was not enough representation under economic development.

- Susan's e-mail was forwarded to members of the commission and was submitted as a request for public consultation.
- She suggests Sid Prest, Jim Boudreau and Bridget Boutilier all should be consulted as she values all their opinions.
- Susan said she was willing to spearhead this committee and is asking for support of the Chamber.
- What she is requesting is for the commission to come here to Sheet Harbour to participate in a Round Table Discussion or a Public Meeting.
- The interim report is soon to be completed. She will keep the Chamber informed.
- She would like to see representation from Ecum Secum to East Ship Harbour.

GREATER HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP AND EMPLOYER:

- Sandy Moser stated we are a part of this
- Developing a project for community economic development funds
- What can we do to support this objective?
- What is the future economic growth and development for the Eastern Shore?
- Access for work force training and development... \$20,000 grant
- This person will help to develop a Task Force throughout the community.
- Develop a plan for the Eastern Shore as to how we could fulfill this task.
- The economic development committee here....Marike, Cathy, Sandy, John and other representatives are having meetings, asset mapping in our communities, and also needs assessment is looked at.
- The people at the meeting were: Premier Dexter, Dept of Transportation, DNR, Tourism, Fisheries, Sid Prest, Dave Hendsbee, etc. It was from this meeting that our Ad Hoc group was formed.
- They are looking to us for support.
- Tom thanked Sandy and the committee for their work.
- Sandy added that the Chamber website has been updated and the Banquet event has been posted and the Silent Auction items have been added.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Kara Allen from DEANS came to us from New Glasgow.
- The Halifax International Airport Resource Person was used as a structure for the Implementation Plan over the winter.
- Job Description; Training; and Budget (What it could cost)
- First Year: Hoping to implement it
- DEANS has gone down 20% for funding.
- There are a lot of knowledgeable people in our communities.
- Seniors involved: Cathy went to New Horizons and recruited 3 senior volunteers who will come periodically.
- If there is only one employee: seniors fill that void.
- Visitor Guide: Extra pages on the Eastern Shore.

RALPH LEBLANC spoke about the funding from the NS government goes down every year. Accommodation owners have decided to put a \$2 levy on every room that is rented out. It started out as 20 rooms or better and now it is down to ten or better. They want it to be for every owner...no matter the number of rooms.... The funds will be used for marketing, viewing tourist bureaus, etc. Every owner will reap the benefits as a lot more money will be coming in and possibly triple what they receive now.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Tom said that people were skeptical about the plan to stop fishing lots on Nova Scotia shores until it was researched.
- Kelly Cole Salmon Ltd , sub of Cook, received \$25,000,000. : ordered to pay \$500,000 for violation of Fishing Act
- Pesticide - killing lobster, etc. Pleaded guilty to administering pesticide, a proven toxin to crustaceans re: Sea Lice
- The frustration of residents of the Eastern Shore and fight was not in vain.
- APES still has work to do to get Spry Harbour area stopped.
- Tom wrote Charlie Parker and Sterling Belliveau to ask them to meet with the Board of Directors as there are questions they would like answered.
- Tom said "We are a gentle organization out to improve the well being of this region"
- Invest in a National Park?
- Tom read a letter he received from Mr. Gordon Hammond re: Bay of Islands . He stated he took the letter as an insult.
- This Chamber meets on a monthly basis; We conduct Town Hall Meetings annually; We have a Plan to develop our communities.
- Tom stated: "This Chamber is not against doing things. We are against doing things in a rush. We like to consult and plan and implement."
- re; JUNE Meeting: We will forget committee reports. We will have a general conversation back and forth as a general meeting. We will discuss proceeding with the pursuit of a National Park.

HELEN PINFIELD: Helen asked if there are any bird watchers? She watched an eagle nesting near the West River. She felt there were probably young ones.

SUSAN LEVY: Susan inquired about the provincial district of Guysborough/Sheet Harbour , under the new name of East Nova since the boundary change....being re-named again. No one was aware of additional change at this time.

BRIDGET BOUTILIER: Tom welcomed Bridget Boutilier to the meeting. He congratulated her on her success in becoming the School Board representative. He invited her to speak at the meeting. She graciously accepted and thanked him and she offered to contribute to the June meeting.

Ralph LeBlanc called for adjournment.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 10:00 am at Sheet Harbour Lion's Centre.

Respectively Submitted
Janice Christie
Recording Officer

