

## **Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs General Meeting on March 19th 2014 at Sheet Harbour Lions Centre**

Present : Ralph LeBlanc, Doug Keating, Terry Rutledge, Art MacKenzie, Tom McNair, Norma McLeod, Terry McLeod, Robert Moser, Sandy Moser, Meryl Atkinson, Dawn Howe-Power, Marilyn Munroe, Donald Rutledge, Brian G. Murphy, George Child, Janice Christie, Cathy Farris, Anthony Farris, Penny Farris, Brian and Marilyn Murphy, Warren Parsons, Eugene Holman, Gary B. Myers, Heather Myers, Brian Hutt, Trevor Gammon, Catherine MacNeil, Bill Armsworthy, Candace MacKean

Regrets: Tom and Brenda McInnis, Jack and Edith Marshall, David Hendsbee

Meeting called to order at 7.30pm

### **Welcome**

In Tom's absence, Robert Moser welcomed everyone.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda included the approval of Minutes for AGM on February 19th 2014 which was changed to read General Meeting on January 9th 2014.

Additional Items - Cathy Farris - Joint Community Partnership Grants

Janice Christie - Chamber Banquet

Agenda approved by Ralph LeBlanc and seconded by Norma McLeod

### **Approval of Minutes**

Meryl Atkinson read the minutes from January 9th meeting as these had not been emailed to members.

Note was made that Meryl had quoted \$600,000 and not the \$6,000,000 that was typed in the minutes regarding Doug Keating's report on Dufferin Mines. It was also noted that the meeting adjournment time was typed as 7.20p.m. instead of the correct time of 8.20pm.

Following these amendments, Minutes were approved by Dawn Howe-Power and seconded by Tom McNair

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Art Society - Sandy Moser**

There was nothing to report from the Art Society.

**Tourism** - Sandy informed members that two booths have been reserved for the Eastern Shore at a cost of approximately \$2,000 at the Saltscapes Exhibition. The event will take place at Halifax Exhibition Park for 3 days - April 25th, 26th and 27th. Several businesses are taking part - The Henley House Pub and Restaurant, Sandy Moser Jewelry, Art Society, Aquaprime Mussels, Sober Island Oysters, Marquis of Dufferin (Pat Bennett). Banners, digital frames, artwork, food samples will be at the booths. Businesses are encouraged to take part and financial donations would be welcomed. \$800 is still owing to the Chamber for the advertisement in the Eastern Shore Guide which will be at the exhibition. If anyone is interested in donating, please make cheques payable to The Henley House Pub and Restaurant.

Robert Moser thanked Sandy for the report and stated that this is the first time the Eastern Shore will have a face at Saltscapes.

#### **MacPhee House** - Cathy Farris

Cathy was happy to report that the MacPhee House will open this year. It will be the main office for the Sheet Harbour and Area Development Corporation. Cathy thanked George Child for obtaining a 6 month credit for the alarm system - this was due to an error with the input of numbers. This means that the phone and internet cost will be covered this summer. Sandy asked Cathy if she has received anything from DEANS and Cathy replied no. Nothing to report yet about additional grants.

#### **Taylor's Head Society** - Warren Parsons

It is very cold so not much happening at the moment but plans are being made and we will be able to view those plans on the website within the next month. The group is going to have students from Lakefront School (split into 2 groups) to show them around the beach and would like to involve the students more. Parks in Nova Scotia open the long May weekend but we hope to be open a couple of weeks before that. The DNR District Supervisor, Cathy Milner has retired and Darrell Cameau will be the new Supervisor as at the end of this month. The Supervisor will be working from the Jeddore office rather than Middle Musquodoboit.

Norma McLeod asked Warren if it is possible to plant flowers in the box by the entrance sign. Norma will take on this task and talk to DNR about it.

Robert Moser said that he and his son recently counted 23 species of birds. Lots to see and enjoy.

#### **Marina** - Cathy Farris

The focus on the location is changing. The Wildlife Society will be taking over the Wildlife Club. The Chamber is looking at the Wharf on Church Point Road and meetings are being arranged to discuss this possibility, and what the cost would be.

#### **Sheet Harbour Development Corp.**

In Wayne Malay's absence, Cathy reported that they have not met for a long time.

## **President's Report**

Robert read Tom's report -

1. Staff at the school board are organizing a meeting with all relevant government officials to encourage a shorter time period for site determination and construction start up. The meeting will be mid April.
2. I had a productive meeting with grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 students regarding the make up of the various operations and facilities within the overall structure. A few teachers were present also. Students completed a survey. It was a wonderful event and a representative group of the student body will appear before our Chamber meeting next month to lay out their wishes.
3. I have opened up discussions with Tusket Mining Incorporated to find out if some of their 5700 acres of land held on the west side of Sheet Harbour could be purchased. Halifax Port Authority and NSBI are interested in having a portion of these lands, or at least I think they should and will be interested.
4. I will soon Chair a meeting of various interest groups to reinvigorate the Wildlife Club. It is my intention to associate with the N.S. Wild Organization.
5. Congratulations to Cathy Farris for securing two personnel to work for the Chamber. Very well done Cathy.
6. Thanks to Sandy Moser for assisting in organizing a gathering at Jeddore on March 29th to discuss the future development along the Eastern Shore.

Thanks to all of you for your commitment and dedication to the Chamber and to the betterment of the Eastern Shore.

## **Informational Report - Sandy Moser**

Economic Development and Tourism - There is a meeting at Jeddore Fire Department on March 29th at 9.30a.m. (a light lunch is available). The Lions bus has been booked and will leave Foodland parking lot at 8.15am.

Greater Halifax Partnership, HRM, ACOA are working together with Eastern Shore communities. Shannon of ACOA and Robin of GHP got together a couple of weeks ago and got enough money to hire someone to look at a study on economic development. 4 different groups came together - Sheet Harbour Chamber, Old School Community, Musquodoboit Valley and Lake Charlotte. Denise VanWycken is hired to coordinate all information. Out of the meeting on March 29th, a plan will be developed. Sandy encouraged as many Chamber members to attend as possible. If anyone has information they wish to pass on, they can send it directly to Denise or to Sandy.

## **Additional Items - Community Partnership Grants - Cathy Farris**

Cathy applied to NS Joint Community Partnership which gives someone who has been on, or is on, EI, a chance to develop their skills and to perform a service for the community. Cathy was happy to report that we have been successful in obtaining 2 employees for 8 months. This does

not mean that the job ends in 8 months and it is hoped that as time goes on, we can justify that there are more projects we need these employees to help with and we can submit our application for more.

The project management team will over-see the job description and other duties as required. All qualified individuals will be given a chance to apply. Interviews of successful candidates will be on April 8th.

Norma asked where will they work? Cathy said originally they would have worked from the Wildlife but now they think the McPhee House. We still do not have a Lease agreement with them. One of the employees will work with the campground while the Chamber is supposed to be in charge and the other will work in research and development. More information will be available next month.

If we get telephone and internet with this grant, it will be for the McPhee House. We have \$1000 for 2 laptops. At the end of last year's season, the computer at McPhee House died - the motherboard has gone. Anyone have desktop computers they can donate? Cathy has priced 2 inexpensive laptops at Costco. The employees wages will be paid for by the Province and they will cover travel for up to 8 project related meetings. \$480 for office space and all telephone and postage.

#### **Banquet - Janice Christie**

The Banquet will be held on Saturday May 24th 2014. Tickets are being made by Marilyn. The cost is \$30 per person. It starts at 6pm with cocktails. Brenda will be doing the Silent Auction and businesses are encouraged to donate. The meal is salad, hot roast beef dinner and dessert. Donations of desserts are required and Norma offered to co-ordinate this as well as help Janice with decorating. Tickets for the TV will be drawn that night. The Premier has been invited to attend as guest speaker.

Norma raised the question of the cost of tickets and maybe a cost per couple could be offered. Robert said this was discussed before and it was felt that the ticket price remain at \$30 each as it is a fundraiser.

#### **Next meeting - Wednesday April 16th 2014 at 7.30pm**

(Art MacKenzie asked why the meetings were changed from Saturday mornings? Robert responded by saying that Wednesday nights seemed to be a better time for meetings)

8.30pm Meeting adjourned by Sandy Moser

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Atkinson, Secretary.