

## **Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs Annual General Meeting, March 4th 2015**

These minutes are not complete due to loss of paperwork.

A copy of the Minutes of the Directors' Meeting of March 4th 2015 is available if required.

For the purpose of proceeding with the 2016 AGM, please accept these partial minutes with the Secretary's apologies.

1. Welcome
2. Agenda Additions and Approval (copy of Agenda available)
3. Approval of 2014 Minutes - these were submitted by Janice Christie and the typing error of the name Walter Warren was changed to read correctly as Warren Parsons. The minutes were approved as read.
4. Business arising from the minutes
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. President's Report - Thank you to outgoing members and welcome to new Directors and VP. Thank you to the many committee chairs and hardworking members. The organization has, and continues to play, an important role in our communities along the Eastern Shore.

Several years ago, we established goals of building our economy and maintaining our institutions. Our various committees have been working hard this year to achieve these goals. We have many challenges facing us, as do most rural communities in Nova Scotia, as well as across Canada. We need employment opportunities, infrastructure improvements, and we must find ways to stem and reverse the outmigration of our youth.

Our members are working toward these goals in the following ways:

Our Marina group is diligently pursuing an opportunity to develop a Marina.

The multi-purpose centre committee is meeting regularly with government officials and school board authorities to ensure that we have a community facility attached to the new school.

We are hopeful that we will see progress in employment development in our area.

The Port Authority is actively searching for new business for our port.

Your Directors have had many meetings this year on your behalf. We have met with various politicians including MP and Justice Minister Peter MacKay, MLA LLoyd Hines, Speaker of the Legislature Kevin Murphy, Minister of TIR Geoff MacLellan, Councillor David Hendsbee, ACOA representative Shannon Chambers, school board

and Department of Education officials, and of course, Senator Tom McInnis.

Just recently, we hosted a meeting where the STEP Program was announced. The Sheet Harbour Chamber is a partner, along with the NS Nature Trust, ACOA, Lake Charlotte Heritage Society, Department of Natural Resources, NS Tourism Agency and DEANS, to go through this process that will result in greatly enhancing our tourism and related businesses.

In order for us to be successful, we must have the support and involvement of as many people as possible. We need all of the members to be involved and to step up and be part of committees when required. We want all the businesses in our area to be part of our Chamber. Also, we must continue to work with all of the communities along our Eastern Shore to attract business and infrastructure to our area. We will not accomplish our goals if we try to be independent and work alone. We must combine our efforts to develop the Eastern Shore.

#### 8. 2015 Membership

9. Spring Banquet - Janice reported that the hall is booked, she will obtain the liquor license and coordinate the meal which will be beef as last year. Cathy offered to take care of the dessert donations. Marilyn will coordinate auction and advertise the event on Facebook and make posters. Meryl and Ruby will decorate. A guest speaker will be booked shortly.

10. A presentation was made by Terry Dwyer. Terry and his family live in Spanish Ship Bay and operates Wreck Hunter Incorporated, a shipwreck exploration and consulting company ([www.wreckhunter.ca](http://www.wreckhunter.ca)) and shipwreck school ([www.shipwreckschool.ca](http://www.shipwreckschool.ca)). Terry has been working in the Canadian recreational, commercial and scientific diving industry for the past 35 years. In 1994 he founded the Nova Scotia Scuba Association. In 1995 his diving company was selected to provide diving support for the motion picture Titanic, parts of which were filmed in Nova Scotia. In 2005 he published his first book "Wreck Hunter - The Quest for Lost Shipwrecks". In 2008 the book went to a second printing and he is currently working on volume two "Wreck Hunter - Shipwrecks and Sunken Treasure". Terry has authored, published and lectured on marine adventure tourism, shipwrecks and shipwreck diving, throughout Canada, the USA and the UK and is considered to be one of the foremost on shipwrecks and marine adventure tourism in Eastern Canada.

#### 11. Additional Business

#### 12. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Atkinson, Secretary