

Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs

Minutes of Meeting on November 7th 2015

In attendance - Robert Moser, Meryl Atkinson, Jack Marshall, Penny Farris, Mark Krause, Rebecca Atkinson, Deanna Currie, Marilyn Munroe, Dawn Howe-Power, Wendy MacKenzie, Sandy Moser, Sue Henry, Susan Boutilier, Ed Empringham, Warren Parsons, George Child and guest Molly Connor of Greater Halifax Partnership.

Robert called the meeting to order at 7.35pm

Approval of Agenda - Mark, seconded by Penny

Robert introduced Molly Connor, Account Executive, Business Retention and Expansion, SmartBusiness Program with Halifax Partnership. Molly explained her role and how she is available to help rural businesses make connections. Molly believes this program is a game changer and will help with youth retention. Business cards were distributed so she can be contacted for more information.

Heritage Society - Wendy MacKenzie spoke as a member of the Heritage Society. They are looking for a project "to sink their teeth into" and wondered if during the summer months they could use the kiosks by the MacPhee House for displays etc., have story-telling in the gazebo, etc. Wendy has spoken with Cathy about the possibility of students helping. Marilyn says she believes there is a TV in the upstairs of the MacPhee House as John Wood recorded interviews with veterans and war brides. Robert suggested we wait for Cathy to return from vacation to discuss the project. Sandy suggested the Heritage Society talk to Barry Smith about photographs and videos.

Minutes of October 7th meeting - Penny approved, seconded by Mark

Business arising from the minutes..

STEP - The group recently visited Hopewell Rocks, Alma, NB and the Fundy Trails Parkway to see those projects and talk to some people involved, which was very interesting. The Open House was successful and the group has lots of ideas from those attending. There will be industry meetings with businesses who think they would like to benefit from this kind of tourism.

Marina - Mark reported that discussions are taking place about installing various moorings where boats can tie up and get to services such as gas, shopping and restaurants. These should be in place in May 2016.

Friends of Taylor Head Park - Warren reported that the park is open until December 7th. The group have been taking care of the facilities and cleaning up garbage etc. They did a total clean-up of the 5k stretch of road. There are a few more activities planned, such as the Fall bird hike on November 22nd.

Multi-purpose Centre/School - Robert reported that there has been no change.

MacPhee House - Cathy is on vacation. Robert said it is closed for the season. There is a key at Fairwinds, Susan and Robert also have a key. The house will be used for the tree lighting on December 5th and closed again.

SHADC - Wayne is away. Robert stated that some of the street lights are not working and some are staying on. These have been talked about with Wayne and HRM and it has been resolved. The lights affected by the new bridge project will be fixed once the new sidewalk is paved.

Snow Removal - Wayne and Tom have been talking to HRM and they are making progress.

Wharf - George says the Wharf is doing well. Halifax Port Authority are being aggressive in their marketing. Stevedoring hours were up. Rumour has it that we are going to get another fairly major business which will be permanent at the Wharf.

DEANS - Meryl reported that there are going to be changes with the funding from Nova Scotia Tourism which will cause problems for DEANS to remain in existence. NS Tourism have employed a Toronto advertising company to work with a Halifax one, on a new campaign to promote our province. Meryl will keep us up-to-date with the situation.

Musgo-Rider - This company offers door-to-door, pre-booked, rural transport. The vehicle is wheelchair accessible. There is a business plan underway for a bus to service Musquodoboit Valley and Sheet Harbour. It will probably be the end of next summer before the wheels are on the road.

Christmas Parade - This will take place on Saturday, December 5th. The Lions Club are sponsors. Chamber will do the tree lighting. Dawn is arranging the light exchange with Efficiency Nova Scotia.

Boardwalk by Falls - The broken planks have been replaced and others are fixed, but it needs on-going maintenance. Robert thanked Bill, Warren and Mark for helping him. George asked whose liability is it? Robert responded by saying he has talked about this with DNR and asked them to look into it. DNR own the land either end of the boardwalk. Marilyn pointed out that the Chamber included the boardwalk with the look off from Sheet Harbour Motel.

December Meeting - There will be a Board of Directors meeting on December 2nd at 6.30pm followed by a Christmas social at 7pm. Meryl and Becky offered to take care of the arrangements.

Power Outages - at the last meeting it was suggested we write a letter to Nova Scotia Power about the problems created by the recent outages. Between Candace, Robert and Cathy, a letter was sent to the Director of NS power and within 24 hours of sending it, Robert received a phone call from him. He gave his sincere apologies and said it should never have happened, and assured Robert it will not happen again. The Director explained that the problem was not visible and it took a long time to find it. NS Power have divided the area into 14 areas so in the future,

they can test one area, and if that is not the problem, they can turn it back on while testing others. Robert told the Director that we do not have any service people in our area, but he believes there are, so he is going to investigate.

Gerald Hardy Memorial Society - Deanna reported that they will be having an Open House on November 28th, 1-3pm, to celebrate 20 years of service. Scotiabank have agreed to match the ticket sales, up to \$1,000.00, the winning one to be drawn at the open house. The information is on the home page.

Remembrance Parade - There will be a squadron from Sheerwater attending, plus a helicopter fly-over. The Chamber have purchased a wreath and if anyone wants to lay it, they can, otherwise the cadets will do it. A free lunch after the parade is available. There is a roast beef dinner at 5.30pm at the Legion for \$12 each. Moser River also has a service and free lunch.

Bridge Walk - It is hoped that this will take place on December 23rd. Anyone have pictures of the old bridge for a slideshow should let Robert know.

Sandy adjourned the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Meryl Atkinson, Secretary