

Digby and Area Board of Trade
Minutes of General Meeting
Thursday January 10 2019
ABCC

Members Present: Karen Enright, Kevin Ellis, Crysi Popowich, Rose Allan, Jean Than and James Nguyen, Charles Cranton, Brendan Enright, Michael Carty, Ed Chisholm, Jean Brittain, Jimmy MacAlpine, Nina Barnaby, Ron Lee, Ron Parks, Sharon MacAlpine , and Linda Weir

New Members: Basinview Dental Centre - Dr Luke Haslam

Guest:

Regrets: Wendy Vissers, Linda Graham, Julie MacLean, Mike Bartlett, Ken Flett & David Cvet

Call to Order: Meeting opened at 6:04 pm, with Karen Enright in the chair.

Approval of the Agenda – Chair called for additions to the agenda. Two speakers were added to the Agenda - Warden Jimmy MacAlpine and Jean Brittain, Deputy Mayor, Town of Digby. Hearing no further additions, chair called for adoption of agenda as amended

Nina Barnaby moved to adopt the agenda for January 10 2019 . Seconded by Michael Carty

Approval of Minutes –November 29 2018.. Chair called for errors or omissions. Hearing none, Chair called for adoption of the minutes as circulated.

Rose Allen moved to adopt the minutes of November 29 2018. Seconded by Charles Cranton. All in favour. Motion carried.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

- February newsletter will feature new owners of Coastal Inn motel. Jean Than and James Nguyen.
- Update of By-laws – Kevin Ellis asked members to have a look at By-Laws on the website and let him know of any changes.
- New Sandwich Board signage and Pull Up Sign to replace old logos, was approved by executive for replacement by Print and Promo.

New Business

Speaker - Jean Brittain, Deputy Mayor started by pointing out that the Town and Municipality do a lot of joint work which works well and it is financially great working together as part of the whole picture. She went on to list some of the initiatives they have been working on in 2018 and plans for 2019 - Three community driven activities took place with a group of local people who organized and maintained the flower pots and hanging baskets in the downtown area; banners featuring local artists were installed throughout the town and the Farmers market on Admiral Walk was successful. All added to the benefit of the town. For 2019 the Town is hoping to install an interpretive panel to explain how the Tide Clock works, due to it being shown as international tides. Further installation of benches, tables and chairs in the town and area. Admiral Digby well repairs and park clean up and new benches which are part of the adopt a bench program. Site of former Tideview Terrace being developed by Clean Annapolis River people . They are also working on site for recreational boaters, stairs near the VIC and request for new artwork on the Promenade, and hoping to make repairs to road in Racquette area for walkers. Water, sewer and paving to be upgraded in some parts of the town. The Town is also concerned with the lower assessment issued for Digby Pines, which will cut tax revenue in half. Hoping new buyers will make improvements to bring up the assessment and taxes can be increased. The Town is doing an adequate job with what they have to spend. Looking good and will keep working diligently with the revenue they have.

Speaker - Jimmy MacAlpine, Warden Municipality of Digby. Opened with what they have been doing in 2018 and then went into their 4 year strategic plan. Currently working on five things - High speed internet - working with partners in Barrington, Argyle and Yarmouth, plus help from WREN. Bell or Eastlink are needed to partner as federal government help for rural communities was not successful. Bell is upgrading about 600 properties in North Range and area this year. 2. Need for doctors and health care professional is being addressed and they are plugging away and hoping for success in 2019. 3 Barton School - they will divest of this property and 2 applications for use have been submitted. 4 Terry Thibodeau is working on renewal energy. Climate change and we are facing rising sea levels. The Municipality is working on tide measuring devices to see how the sea rises, giving Bear River as an example with water now up to the bridge at high tide. Terry working on electrical grid capacity from Middleton town. It is currently very restrictive to business and a challenge we face. Study done, and included how to store energy in the community and put into the grid when it can handle it. Council strong on renewal energy. Generator in the back of Weymouth is not being used due to the downturn of mink industry. Looking at moving it to another part of the province where it might be needed. Dan Harvey working on finding land to attract new business in the municipality. Cleared an area on Highway 217 to show it can be done. Good relationship with all other local municipality and they need to work together as it will benefit us all. 2019 - looking at doctor recruitment, rural internet still ongoing. Key to this area is the fisherman's wharf and they want to keep the pressure on politicians to move the expansion project along. Cruise ship business shows a lot of opportunities for the area and a huge growth industry. Expansion of the wharf, would be most helpful. MacAlpine talked about how WREN has helped the area and projects their employees are working on. It is an economic model that works with business people on their board. Looking forward to a good 2019 and good news on the projects at hand. Questions from the floor were taken. MacAlpine asked if the municipality had any plans to attract large new manufacturing to this area, as we should not just rely on fish and tourism. No, they are trying to make Digby an attractive place to live. WREN attracts business, plus Dan Harvey and Terry Thibodeau are working on their projects. Hope to position Digby as service centre for tidal energy but it is not growing as fast as thought. Perfect for the area, but need to upgrade our infrastructure. Jean Than questioned on getting new doctors, and asked if there was any special help to open up channels and bring doctors from other countries. Trying every avenue to recruit.

- Speaker Series - Chair commented the Board would like to have a speaker every second month. Looking for suggestions or topics. Please let her know. Hope to have Gordon Wilson in March and waiting for WREN to confirm.
- New Member benefit - ABCC will offer a 20% discount on all meeting space and overnight accommodation (not on food and beverage)
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Correspondence - Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce - State of Union address at Rodd Grand coming up.

Announcements

- Kevin - Friday January 18 7 -9 public consultation on electoral boundaries - the only meeting in this area
- Board will start 3 new courses this winter - enrollment dependent - Human Resources, Computer, and Social media and marketing. Details out soon.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:28 pm Michael Carty

Next Meeting – February 21 - lunch meeting at Fundy.