

**Digby and Area Board of Trade
Minutes of General Meeting
Wednesday January 17 2018
Sydney Street Café Noon**

Members Present: Kevin Ellis, Wendy Vissers, David Cvet , Crysi Popowich, Ken Flett, Beth Earle, Briane Lombard, Charles Cranton, Rick Foote, Michael Carty, and Linda Weir, Recording Secretary

New Members:

Guests: Ben Cleveland - Mayor, Charlotte Sabeau, Dawn Thomas

Regrets: Linda Graham, Edwin Chisholm, Karen and Brendan Enright, Brenda LaGrandeur (WREN)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm with Kevin Ellis in the chair.

Approval of the Agenda – Chair called for additions to the agenda. Chair noted Speaker Brenda LaGrandeur from Western REN had to cancel. Hearing no further changes, Chair called for adoption of agenda
Beth Earle moved to adopt the agenda for January 17 2018 Seconded by David Cvet.

Approval of Minutes –December 13, 2017 Chair called for errors or omissions. Hearing no errors or omissions Chair called for approval of the minutes as circulated.

Michael Carty moved to adopt the minutes of December 13, 2017. Seconded by Rick Foote. Motion carried.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

- Workplace Education - 8-10 people have registered for Online Marketing course. Class Monday 5 - 9 pm Rick MacLellan is the facilitator. 10 people needed to proceed. Start date to be advised There are also a few seats open for the HR course, as well as the computer courses. First 2 with 10 registered to go ahead.
- Response to Letter from Municipality of Digby regarding removal of their representative at Board meetings. Response read to members. Great disappointment they are withdrawing from the Board. Board understand the time commitment involved for representative, but do not fully understand the decision to withdraw from the only business association in the area. Moving forward the Board will send quarterly updates to the Municipality to identify any new projects.
- Reminder DABT membership renewals are due for 2018.
- Awesome Project - Ken Flett gave quick update and handed around information on the project. They are looking to form group in the Digby area to help start new business. Good to see ideas and engagement in community, with meetings held in local restaurants. Ken gave an outline of the project and how it is working in Annapolis Royal. So far the Annapolis group has provided \$15,000 to new business start ups. Similar to a Dragon's Den pitch approach to be awarded the money. Next Pitch Night for AWESOME Annapolis is January 24th - Open to the public .

New Business

Speaker - Charlotte Sabean along with Dawn Thomas of the Senior Safety spoke on Making Breastfeeding Your Business and Age Friendly/Senior Safety for the area. Bringing awareness to the business for the whole spectrum. Folders will be available with what you can do as a business to make your business more age friendly, including universal signage to show accessibility, changing tables, breastfeeding area, local products., etc available in your location. They would like to see place where resources are available and people easily can see how they can access the information. Advertise the signage for your business to help make life easier for those looking for the best place for their needs. Package will include check list, tools and stickers to be given out to businesses if interested. Places to go or not go if they do not meet the criteria. Wondering if the Board would consider being involved. Wendy suggested board could help with getting info out and businesses who choose to get involved could add symbols to their profile page. Way to advertise and possibility to draw business to members as people are made aware of what they can offer. Letter will be mailed out next couple of weeks and a physical follow up will take place for those businesses who participate. Noted there is accessibility funding for small business which could be an initiative for business to update. We will also put info on events calendar.

Correspondence –

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Announcements -

- Tickets for Robbie Burns available. Gail and David Cvet will do the toasts to Lassies and Laddies.

Adjournment – Adjourned Kevin 1 pm