

Digby and Area Board of Trade
Minutes of General Meeting
Thursday, March 21 2019
Fundy Complex, Digby

Members Present: Karen Enright, Kevin Ellis, Wendy Vissers, David Cvet, Crysi Popowich, Ken Flett, Charles Batstone, Charles Cranston, Michael Carty, Edwin Chisholm, Ken and Maxine Connell, Beth Earle, Nina Barnaby, Julie MacLean, Mike Bartlett, Nick Foote, Brendan Enright,, Brian Joudrey, and Linda Weir

New Members: Raw 'N Green Wellness Coaching - Judy Green

Guests: Gordon Wilson, MLA Clare -Digby
Morgan Dunn - Inspiring Communities
Henry & Linda Wielinga - Hillside Landing B & B
Manny M - Indian Food Cuisine

Regrets: Linda Graham

Call to Order: Meeting opened at 6:05 pm, with Karen Enright in the chair. Introductions around the table.

Approval of the Agenda – Chair called for additions to the agenda Mike Bartlett will speak to the Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament on the agenda. Hearing no further additions, chair called for adoption of agenda as amended

Nina Barnaby moved to adopt the agenda for March 21 2019 . Seconded by Wendy Vissers.

Approval of Minutes –February 27 2019 .. Chair called for errors or omissions. Hearing none, Chair called for adoption of the minutes as circulated.

Kevin Ellis moved to adopt the minutes of February 27 2019. Seconded by David Cvet. All in favour. Motion carried.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

- April newsletter will feature member bNetworked - Brian Joudrey
- Hiring Part-time research analyst and helper. Job has been updated to full -time position - 35 hours /week through program at NS Works. Karen has contacted those who applied for p/t position to see if they wished to be considered for F/T. Will keep applications open for another week once the new ad goes out.

Guest Speaker -

Gordon Wilson thanked the board for the invitation to speak and then gave highlights of government's accomplishments in the province. - Exponential growth in trade; NS leader in seafood exports - 29% of Canadian market which created jobs; Unemployment at 6.4% lowest since 1976, 5.970 immigrants chose to stay in NS, International students at 9.4% and on target for 2024; balanced budget next week- more money going into hospitals and roads, health care facilities, and schools; a lot of work & some changes to regulations in fishing and tourism areas, Fred Crooks, NS Chief Regulatory officer was recognized by CFIB for his work on cutting red tape , increased small threshold tax. Locally Pines - 4 points of commitment for pending sale, Inspiring communities, anything that grows business will make us stronger. Challenges remain with high speed internet but province has made the large single investment in internet in Canada. Major aquaculture company coming to NS. Also going through significant changes to the electoral boundaries - Annapolis and Digby, Clare will stand alone. Our NS Ferry to US under attack - loss of this ferry would be a huge loss of revenue in the area. People need to speak up for the ferry service. Big infrastructure project on 101, long term care facility, new dialysis unit and Acaciaville Community Centre but more infrastructure is needed at the wharf. Many opportunities are happening here Still challenges with healthcare, doctor shortage, but working hard and hope to optimize our chances and bear fruit in the future; more needs to done with housing in Digby, but assisted living units being built due to the new dialysis units. Positive things going on this community and Digby is being recognized and potential to be a hub area.. Questions and discussion from the floor on lack of licensing on Air BnBs/ tourism accommodation act, Ivany report and ticking off the boxes - value added as part of export has increased NS has stepped up game and can be shown as an example to

others - ie Gidney Fisheries, Lewis Moldings, Riverside Lobster, Comeau Seafoods. Etc Gordon to pull out numbers and send to Edwin Chisholm; David Cvet question on the electrical grid, the "garden hose" line and how the low voltage is a restraint to growth in this area as we cannot provide the service if needed. Informed we can produce the electricity here with our current resources. Major initiatives on going to reduce energy consumption and storage of green power. Business may not know there is sustainable energy storage in Digby which should be communicated and passed on to new businesses. NS need to do a better job of letting new business know about the potential for this area to produce energy through windmills. Digby generates its own energy and it is all renewable. Potential to generate is greater than our current need; . Digby is still a promising place for open water testing. Opening of Digby Neck Quarry was questioned - do not see it happening at this point, as there have already been other quarries opened the last few years and completion of highway 101 roundabout and roads will be finished this year, starting as soon as the asphalt plant can open

New Business

- DABT Business Awards - Date TBA waiting to confirm speaker. Nominations to be sent out. Please respond This is a signature event and great evening.
- Awesome Digby version - David Cvet spoke to this - not much happening in the area and suggested an organized event whereby all businesses get together for think tank to pull 2 or 3 problems for business that the group can solve. Observations and everything on the table for discussion to see if we can come up with a solution Get the existing business community together to get creative juices flowing - anyone interested? If it works it could be held every year. Asked for show of hands if considered a good idea - several people interested. Contact David.
- Digby Hospital Foundation - 5th annual tournament June 26th -Mike Bartlett said \$4000 raised last year. 5 celebrity guests this year and there will be added event the night before with the Montreal Canadians/USSR Red Army 1975 Hockey game being played - tickets \$25 at Subway. Golf tournament - \$600 team and \$1100 with celebrity with team. Lots of great prizes. All the money stays in community for our hospital and hope to raise money for a by-pass machine. Dinner at ABCC on April 30 -\$100 ticket to raise money for those who are not golfers. If you have prize donations, please contact Mike.

Wendy Vissers moved the Board sponsor \$600 for team in the tournament . Seconded by Judy Green All in favour. Motioned carried. Interested golfers please email Karen to sign up for team.

- Spring Into Summer Show - come to attention that the board may want to organize the show, time is very tight , but if it is the will of the Board to organize. for this year or next. Three hands in favour. Timeline tight for this year, will look at 2020, but will need volunteers, sub committees to move forward as the executive cannot take on its own. Discussion followed. Nina suggested a paid worker instead of volunteer. Leave for thought and bring to next month's meeting.
- Workplace Education courses - Government has asked that the organizers gather personal information of people attending the courses and upload for them. Board is pulling the courses off the table to avoid burdening the board. If privacy/confidentially breached it would be the board the people come after . Board not comfortable with the requirements of government for providing the courses. Board could put on our own courses. Nina noted that NSCC does customized training and we could look at the costs and see what they have to offer. Will meet to discuss

Correspondence

- None

Announcements

- Nina - NSCC - Make a Wave Foundation celebration Money stays in the region. Digby has two awards of \$1000.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 18 pm Wendy Vissers

Next Meeting – April 18 noon - Fundy