

**Digby and Area Board of Trade
Minutes of General Meeting
Wednesday February 21 2018
NSCC - Digby Learning Centre - 6 :00 pm**

Members Present: Karen Enright, Kevin Ellis, Crysi Popowich,, Michael Carty, Nina Barnaby, Charles Cranton, Rick Foote, Brendan Enright, Ashley Roberts, Matthew Killen and Barbie McNeil -NSCC students, Brenda LaGrandeur, Jen Goucher and Linda Weir, Recording Secretary

New Members:

Guests: Nancy Makin - artist , Nikki Chafe Consulting

Regrets: Diane Axent, Beth Earle, Ken Flett, David Cvet, Linda Graham, Wendy Vissers.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm with Karen Enright in the chair. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of the Agenda – Chair called for additions to the agenda. Chair added Nina Barnaby under Announcements. Hearing no further changes, Chair called for adoption of agenda

Michael Carty moved to adopt the agenda for February 21 2018 Seconded by Nikki Chafe.

Approval of Minutes –January 17, 2018 Chair called for errors or omissions. Hearing no errors or omissions Chair called for approval of the minutes as circulated.

Rick Foote moved to adopt the minutes of January 17 2018 . Seconded by Nina Barnaby. Motion carried.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

- Workplace Education - Online Marketing Course has started and is being held on Monday nights. 5 people have signed up for the HR Course, but 8 are needed to proceed with course. Send Karen email if interested in participating.
- Member 2 Member benefits - Kevin Ellis advised 2018 members' card are available and cards will be issued with payment of membership fee for this year. Handed out cards to those in attendance. Chair questioned if 2018 decals were available., hearing 2018 were needed, called for motion.

Kevin Ellis moved to have Digby Print and Promo print the 2018 membership decals with new logo for issue to members. Crysi Popowich seconded the motion. Motion carried Send number for order and new logo to Rick for printing.

New Business

Speaker - Jen Goucher -Jen Goucher Insurance Services Limited, the group insurance representative for Board of Trade spoke on what the chamber insurance program can do for members. 1-50 can participate and you only need to be a member of the Board to take part. Jen explained how the premiums work and how the risk is spread with thousands of members across Canada. Good opportunity to give something of value to your employees. She is the direct contact. Administration is very easy to navigate and use, and health tools and resources are also available to those who join. Benefits the chamber group insurance offers were outlined; also touched on short and long term disability, extended health care, retiree program and critical illness benefits. The chamber program is stable. Questions from the floor. Available to registered businesses only. Jen will drop off brochures for future meetings. Thanked by Karen.

Speaker - Brenda LaGrandeur - Western REN Connector program. Brenda outlined what the Western REN is about and how it is funded, and impact it has for small business. Spoke to what they keep hearing from business - lack of employees for all business areas. Connector Program came about as a result of this need. Putting local talent directly in touch with community and business leaders and building a professional network to connect with career opportunities, so people will stay within our community. It is not finding a job for someone, but helps make the connection. The connectors know everyone in their community. There are skilled people in and coming into our community and she tries to find opportunities for employees and employers. How it works - Match- Connect and Refer. This networking program helps local talent build a professional network, connect with career opportunities in this area and settle successfully in our community. Looking for matchmakers for the western region - share your personal business network. If you feel there is someone in the area that will benefit from the program, refer them to Brenda. Uncover hidden talent, reduce risk in hiring by employers, improve regional workforce and retention of employees. It is not what you know, it's who you know and what they know. Hope that the Board business members will consider being a Connector. Contact information for Brenda given out. She will meet you for a coffee to discuss or can be contacted at her office in Tusket.

Correspondence –

- Letter of response to letter to Municipality of Digby to be addressed at next meeting.

Announcements -

- Membership fees are due by the end of the month. Invoices will be for outstanding memberships.
- Strategic Plan for Executive will be held on Sunday March 11. If anyone has anything they would like addressed at this meeting, please send to Karen.
- Website will feature a member's business each month. Starting in March, Wine Kitz will be the featured member. Members interested in being featured, please send information /contact Karen. A promotion can be included in the feature.
- Nina Barnaby - Business students 9 - Office Admin and 5 - Business Admin students will be available for workplace placements April 25 - May 25. Generally not a paid position. If interested please contact Nina at NSCC. Great way for students to get experience and businesses to gain some help and possible new employee.

Adjournment – Adjourned Kevin 7:03

Next Meeting - Thursday March 15 - Noon location TBA