

Digby and Area Board of Trade
Minutes of General Meeting
Tuesday, November 22 2022 – 2022
Soo Good - 12 pm

Members Present: Kevin Ellis, Rick Foote, Dan White, Courtney Everhard, David Cvet, Anita Chisholm, Edwin Chisholm and Linda Weir

New Members:

Guests: Jamie Rose –Immigration Service Association of NS, Guest Speaker

Regrets: Lori Prentice -Van Luven, Diane Axent and Charles Batstone

Call to Order: Meeting opened at 12:12 pm with Welcome and Introductions around the room. Kevin Ellis in the chair.

Approval of the Agenda – Chair called for additions to the agenda Guest Speaker was changed from Cliff MacDonald to Jamie Rose. Added Board of Trade summit. Hearing no further additions, the chair called for adoption of agenda as amended

Rick Foote moved to adopt the agenda for November 22 2022 Seconded by David Cvet.

Approval of Minutes from September 14 2022 - Chair called for errors or omissions. Hearing none, Chair called for adoption of the minutes as presented

Rick Foote moved to adopt the minutes of September 14 2022. Seconded by David Cvet. All in favour. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker - Jamie Rose, ISANS - Immigration Services Association of NS. Jamie was introduced and provided background, acknowledging First Nations peoples and land. ISANS mission is simple – helping immigrants build a future in NS. and Vision – A community where all can belong and grow. It is a leading immigrant settlement service agency in Atlantic Canada. ISANS has been helping immigrants for over 40 years, helping to connect clients to employers, made up of 350 staff /volunteers from over 64 countries. They work with employers to build capacity for new immigrants, employer engagement offering many kinds of services, including language, settlement, community integration and employment. Atlantic Immigration Program AIP - a new immigration program helps to address labour gaps, and steer people in right direction, with language programs tailored to on job performance, skills match program with employer recruitment, making sure they are comfortable and settled by liaising with Y Reach Service. Jamie explained the programming (6-7) and talked about the 12 week program whereby the employee is covered, and employer then pays after the 12 weeks. Little risk for potential employees and attractive program. Questions from the floor, including how to find foreign workers.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

- Website – update by Courtney Everhard, who has updated and refurbished the website. Posting events to Facebook once a week. Still working on Twitter and LinkedIn. Agenda and minutes to be posted to website and notice sent to advise of posting. Once membership list is updated, info can be sent out to members. Would like to do recognize business posts.
- Update Business Directory & funding from NS Works– Interest from many people to have the business directly updates. checking on possibility to get funding for a person for limited time. Someone would have to keep eye on this person. Once info gathered, can send out or produce booklet.
- Memoriam section website.- Kevin advised the Board has lost several former members of Executive -Christy Herron, Ken Connell, Doug Woodman, John Englehutt. With family's permission would like to information and history if family provide the obituary Discussion on who would be included In Memoriam – ie presidents, treasurers, etc. Kevin will look at what other boards are doing. Asked Courtney to check on adding to website.

New Business

- Lori Prentice-VanLuven resigned as Treasurer and fortunately, new member Dan White moved to area and offered his services. The Executive recommended Dan be the Interim Treasurer. Dan gave quick overview of his background in accounting, and wants to do his bit for the community.
Motion: David Cvet nominated Dan White as Interim Treasurer for the Board. Seconded by Edwin Chisholm. All in favoured Motion carried.
Letter of thanks go out to Lori for her services.
- Networking Event for 2023 - Rick Foote - Networking event was held in September at the NSCC Digby campus. Those who attended were pleased with the event and another networking event was suggested for March 2023. Board to work over the next few months to organize. Event is a group of businesses getting together to talk, work their way around the room to meet new people and businesses. Physical in person meeting is needed and wanted by the business community.
- Robbie Burns Dinner moving forward. Kevin announced the date as January 28th. 2023
- Harvey Doane, Maritime Launch Services(MLS) David Cvet spoke on the opportunities for Digby in the Space technology. Brainstorming session to be held December 8 10 am at Fundy Complex, to identify any areas of interest. Harvey Doane of MLS was surprised with reach out from David, as no one has done so before. Space technology - this could be a first for Digby area. All interested to attend.
- EMC – Excellence in Manufacturing event on Sustainability for rural NS. manufacturers at Sissiboo Coffee Roaster in Bear River on Thursday December 8th at 1:30 pm. Free event, however EMC sells membership, and will be looking to sign people up. EMC innovators or people who want to ship from this area. Post notice on website.
- Chamber Group Insurance representative Jen Goucher would like to attend meeting to give update on changes. Policy covers board members only. Executive to confirm.
- Town Hall meeting with MLA/Warden, Mayor – Pre Covid Town Hall meetings were held with officials, giving them the chance to update members on what directions they were going and plans for the future for the area, with questions from the board. This would not be a public meeting, but members only. RSVP. Suggested some time in March. All 3 officials have agreed. Kevin Ellis to follow up & organize.
- Board Summit – David Cvet – David suggested a meeting with executives of Annapolis, Bear River, Clare, Islands, Weymouth executives to brainstorm, discuss challenges they have and see what can be gone together. David to spearhead and send info. Rick and Kevin to help contact.

Correspondence.

- Statements from Chamber insurance, Fairway insurance company, invoice Clare Shopper
- Clare Shopper have a deal for 6 ads -savings of \$80 – Rick Foote suggested six 2 X 2 ads – approx. \$50 each with discount for the same ad for 6 issues.

Announcements

- Article in Vanguard – news that mentions Digby would be of interest and can be linked to website.
- Facebook group suggested by Dan White. . This can be looked into, once Courtney has updated list of members FB works well in this area.
- Edwin – contracts to let for \$3m in January for repairs and upgrades to wharf structure.
- Courtney announced Back To Our Roots candles are now being carried by Every Bloomin' Thing in Yarmouth.
- Dan – tax business with clients following from Ontario.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 2:15 pm

Next Meeting TBA date and time.