

**Digby and Area Board of Trade
Minutes of General Meeting
Wednesday, September 14 2022
Fundy Restaurant, 5:30 pm**

Members Present: Kevin Ellis, Rick Foote, Rose Madden, CBDC, Rob Stephenson, WREN, Nina Barnaby, NSCC, Nick Foote, Digby Signs Inc, and Linda Weir

New Members:

Guests: Dan White, Tax Audit Solutions, Bob Benson,- BR Millyard Rec and Teresa Henshaw – Cosmetologist , Corry Harris – Digby Convenience.

Regrets: Lori Prentice -Van Luven, Nella Pidutti, and Mike Bartlett

Call to Order: Meeting opened at 5:45 pm with Welcome and Introductions around the room. Kevin Ellis in the chair.

Approval of the Agenda – Chair called for additions to the agenda Hearing no additions, the chair called for adoption of agenda as presented

Rick Foote moved to adopt the agenda for September 14 2022 Seconded by Nina Barnaby.

Approval of Minutes from November 28 2019 - last minutes on record. Decided to start fresh with minutes hereinafter.

Guest Speaker - Rob Stephenson, Western REN.- Succession Planning Rob outlined what WREN is all about with a focus on helping with businesses leads in the area, lending a hand in navigating federal programs, and interest in helping business owners with a retirement plan so they have retirement income, but all the while keeping employees employed and the business continuing to operate.. All are interconnected to the community and affects economic development, Reason enough to keep business in area running through transition and get owners retirement funds from the sale of their business Gave stats . Talked about subsidy to businesses who are interested in selling and retiring . Cost around \$700-\$800 on a \$5000 project. WREN consultant can help with formal procedures, take over for the business owners and try to help get new people into the business. Anyone of retirement age with business, let them know help is out there to make the most out their business and retire Questions from the floor, Rob thanked for his presentation.

Business Arising From the Minutes:

- No business arising.

New Business

- Financial statements Balance \$27621.26 current balance in account. Minimal expenses in the last two tears
- Rick Foote - Back to business Event at NSCC Free 3 hours with local businesses . Limited to 100 participants. Not a trade show. Businesses to talk to other businesses. BOT to pay for food. Swag from CBDC Rose and Nina working on this too. Good idea, could be an annual event.
- Social media – Courtney Everhard to pick up where we left off with the website. Will update weekly. BOT to provide direction and pay Courtney to keep updated. Moving forward – find out what members want
- Nina Barnaby suggested there should be a plan around celebrating businesses. There are many small businesses in the area. Focus on what is here, make people aware and be positive. Turning Tide, a branch of Inspiring Communities Digby, perhaps they could be of assistance and help celebrate what we do. After a few years, the attitudes might change

- Business directory - would like to update. Good idea to get going again so people know where people and things are; especially for newcomers.
- Past Presidents and Members – we have lost many members of our past executive who should be acknowledged for their time here, with permission from their families. Notably the recent passing of Kristy Herron-Schneider, John Englehutt and Ken Connell Kevin suggested having a In Memoriam section on our website

Correspondence

- Magazine and statements from insurance company, invoice Clare Shopper

Announcements

- Bear Island - Island belongs to Town of Digby, Board of Trade, (Mayor and President) Ted Leighton looks after the island and found a virus outbreak recently.
- WRR – update on recent rally with the first time it has been held with unrestricted events. WRR will re-evaluate to see what it will be going forward for 2023.
- Update on Spring Into Summer event. Businesses did well – booths down but those in attendance had success.
- AGM- looking at November and will look at direction board is going forward.
- Tuesday Oct 11th networking event at NSCC. Arrangements still to be made.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:20 pm

Next Meeting TBA date and time.