

NORTH DUNDAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEETING – AUGUST 17, 2011

Present: Sandie Puddephatt, Owen Shortt, Chris Hart, Bill Smirle, Pam Sherrer, Butch Oldford, Gordon Dean, Roy Glassford, John VanBruinessen, Gillian Trojan, Anne-Marie Hodgins, Ashli Shaver, Ruth Liscumb, Rick Lewis, Kaireen Cotnam, Rob Hunter, Vince Zandbelt

Welcome

Owen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was moved by Bill Smirle, seconded by Sandie Puddephatt that the minutes of July 19, 2011 be approved. Carried

Treasurer's Report

Owen presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Colin. Another \$ 600 was received for dues, \$800 was paid towards the wine & cheese welcome to the Township's new Economic Development Officer, Rob Hunter, and the bank balance as of August 5th was \$ 12,048.

It was moved by Sandie Puddephat, seconded by Butch Oldford that the Treasurer's Report as presented be accepted. Carried

Chamber Registration

Registrations are still coming through the mail (currently about 100 dues paying members) and despite the increased usage of computers by everyone, Canada Post still works.

Website

There was a brief discussion of all the benefits of the Chamber's web site and perhaps a presentation to the members was needed.

Provincial Debate

The Winchester arena has been booked for the debate and Colin has finalized the details for the evening. Bill Smirle will emcee that night. The ground rules will be similar to the municipal debates.

Bylaw Discussion

Any changes to the bylaws will be presented at the Annual meeting in January, 2012.

Chamber Funding Formula

It was moved by Sandie Puddephatt, seconded by John VanBruinessen that the Chamber will only consider requests for funding assistance for sponsored events in conjunction with the Township.

Economic Development Office' Report

Rob was asked to present an update following his one month on the job. He noted that a review had been done on the last 7 years of Council minutes. An economic plan had been developed and passed at Council. Plans are also been considered in marketing outside of the North Dundas area. Designs for the signage have been approved and includes redoing hamlet signs plus the web site. Tenders would be received over the next 2 – 3 weeks

A public meeting has been planned for September 13 to review the draft by-law allowing retail businesses to be open on Victoria Day, Canada Day and Labour Day.

There was some discussion of having the October meeting at the Township Office to allow Rob to provide an update on customer service training in regards to the accessibility area of the Disability Act to come into play in the near future.

Local Buying

It was stressed once again to Rob, the Chamber's position that the local buying of services and products could not be more important. Sometimes, although there might be a small savings to purchasing outside, these perceived savings may be negligible once all the details are reviewed (need to dig deep to ascertain all pertinent info.).

O.P.P. Policing

There have been a few complaints in respect of the attitude from the police. The concerns stemmed from a couple of comments made by some members of the force following a theft, where it was suggested that the theft wasn't really important and there wasn't a lot that could be done.

It was suggested that the staff sergeant be invited to make a presentation at a future meeting.

Community Events

It was noted that the Chamber can do things throughout North Dundas without relying on Council all the time, i.e. Winchester Corn Roast on the 24th, which will further bring awareness of the downtown area and help with the retail businesses and also introduce current/new businesses to the public.

South Nation Association

Bill Smirle noted that the Association has funding up to \$500/event if that event can be tied to the conservation of the South Nation Watershed.

Information Booth

Is there a booth available from the Chamber/Township which could be used at future events to provide information about the Township/Chamber to the public?

Next Meeting Wednesday September 21, 2011 7:30 pm Garden Villa, Chesterville

It was moved by John VanBruinessen seconded by Rick Lewis to adjourn the meeting.

Carried