

NORTH DUNDAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING – MARCH 16, 2011

Present: Laura Fletcher, Sandie Puddephatt, Ed Puddephatt, Pam Sherrer, Eric Duncan, Owen Shortt, Chris Hart, Colin Pring, John VanBruinessen, Ken Arsenault, Butch Oldford, Bill Smirle, Bruce Cowell, Roy Glassford

Welcome

Owen welcomed everyone to the meeting followed by each individual introducing themselves and their business.

North Dundas Minor Hockey

Some of the executive from Minor Hockey were asked to come to the meeting and address the issue of not asking local businesses to sponsor gift vouchers in their recent hockey draw, but rather solicited merchants outside the municipality, ie. Home Depot

The Chamber just wanted to bring awareness that local purchasing should always be pursued as much as possible, and while Minor Hockey does endeavour to follow this, occasionally not doing it leads to the perception (real or otherwise) that local purchasing is not important.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was moved by Bill Smirle, seconded by Ed Puddephatt that the minutes of February 16, 2011 be approved. Carried

Treasurer's Report

It was moved by Colin Pring, seconded by Pam Sherrer that the Treasurer's Report as presented be accepted. Carried

Chamber Registration (2011)

Registration for the 2011 year must be done on the internet, it is no longer through the pamphlet.

Funding from Township Council

There was some discussion regarding possible funding from the Township Council. South Dundas Council does provide some funding to the South Dundas Chamber, although the exact amount is not known.

Correspondence

It was agreed that if individual members were asked to sponsor an event, then the Chamber need not sponsor the same event. This was in response to a request from the North Dundas Canada Day Committee.

It was announced that Trudy (CEO, Winchester District Memorial Hospital) has submitted her resignation, effective June 30, 2011.

Chamber Bylaws

John VanBruinessen, Ken Arsenault, and Bill Smirle were asked at the last meeting to review the bylaws and suggest possible changes. Bill and the committee highlighted the changes and the reasons for each. A lively discussion ensued about some of the possible changes and the ramifications as they pertain to voting at Board meetings.

In light of all of the changes, and the short time to digest them, it was moved by Roy Glassford, seconded by Bill Smirle to table the report until the next meeting.
Carried

North Dundas Mayor

Eric Duncan reported that a request has been received by Council to change the zoning for Shadbolt's from commercial to residential. This raises 2 issues / concerns. Namely, this reduces the amount of commercial space in the downtown core and also the increased need of parking at times during shopping hours. As a general principle, the Chamber is not in favour of converting commercial to residential, especially in the shopping core.

Eric also reported that the budget process has been good this year. As noted during the election campaign, roads were addressed in the budget as were several recommendations from the Planning Department. Changes have been made and improvements have occurred. An Economic Development & Communication position was approved and it is planned to have it filled by the end of June.

In response to suggestions from previous meetings, Eric addressed the Township signage indicating that there is a need for improvements. Both hamlet and park signs will be upgraded, although the life span of a sign must be considered in conjunction with the cost. Owen reiterated that it is important that there be all signage be in keeping with the Township colours, as this further reinforces the branding image of North Dundas.

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 20, 2011 7:30 am

It was moved by Ed Puddephatt, seconded by Colin Pring to adjourn the meeting. Carried