

**South Queens Chamber of Commerce
Council (Directors) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 31, 2010
Chamber office # 7, Lower Gorham Street**

In Attendance: Barry Tomalin Kevin Page
 Susan MacLeod Stu Horton
 Maureen Howe Kerry Morash
 Pam Myles Mark Sloan
 Brian Fralic Monica Howard

Guests: Lauren Ellens – Student Volunteer
 Scott Irwin – Regional Sales Executive Atlantic Region TD Merchant Services

Scott gave a presentation on the features and benefits of the Chamber considering offering TD Merchant Services as an option for Point of Sale functions. He explained that this service by TD is the only one endorsed by the Atlantic Provinces Chamber and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. It is a very competitive service and would operate exactly the same as other Merchant Services. He will be providing the members with brochures and application forms for reference.
Barry thanked Scott for his time.

Official Meeting begins at 4:12

- 1) President Barry called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM
- 2) There were 2 additions to the agenda:
 - a. October Small Business week discussion
 - b. Buy Local initiatives

Barry introduced Lauren Ellens, who has offered volunteer hours to the Chamber to help with administrative duties, website design, etc.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available but will be circulated prior to the next scheduled board meeting.

The Treasurers report will be available at the September board meeting. Cheryl Beaton to set up the Simply Accounting system so we can extract the information.

Business arising from previous meeting:

MP Stockwell Day luncheon event hosted by the Bridgewater and Area Chamber co- sponsored by the Atlantic Province Chamber of Commerce was attended by Susan MacLeod on Friday, August 6. An evening reception hosted by MP Gerald Keddy with MP Stockwell Day was attended by Kerry Morash, Susan MacLeod, Danny Morton, Bruce Inglis, Richard Freeman and Bruce Nunn. A very enjoyable evening giving our members an opportunity to meet Mr Day in a casual setting, but able to discuss with him issues of interest to our members.

Luncheon Tuesday, Sept. 7

Susan reported that arrangement have been made for the Finance Minister Graham Steele Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at the Best Western Hotel at 12 noon for registration and 12:30 for lunch. Posters are circulated and invitations sent via email and the website. Also a notice was sent by Canada Post to approx 400 businesses in Queens. RSVP were for Friday, Sept. 3

Bary was asked by Mr. Steele's assistance, what topics we want the Minister to address:

It was moved by Mark Sloan, seconded by Stew to ask the Minister to "Outline the contribution that small business makes to the Canadian Economy and what will the NS government do to help small business prosper". CARRIED

The minister will speak for 10 minutes, with 10 minutes for question and answer, a photo opportunity

There will be no head table but a round table reserved for the Minister, , MLA Vicki Conrad, President Barry and Executive Director Susan MacLeod.

Liverpool Waterfront

Stew Horton has held discussions with Dr. Al Doucet, who has knowledge and experience on previous proposed waterfront developments. Discussions are ongoing and Stew will continue to pursue this for the Chamber.

Request from Natalie McMaster on Baby Friendly Breast Feeding in the work place initiative. It was decided that Barry should contact her to offer any articles and information she may have can be posted on our website or distributed to the general membership via email.

Christmas Committee

Bruce Inglis chairs the Christmas Committee and will be asked to attend out next directors meeting to inform us of their plans.

Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan

Bruce Inglis will be asked to attend the next board meeting to discuss this.

Tourism Committee

No report,, the Committee has not met the past month

New Business:

Nova Scotia Music Week

Brian Fralic has a document with information on applying to host the Nova Scotia Music Week in 2011. It was moved by Kerry and seconded by Mark that Brian Fralic and Kevin Page gather information to present to the Board on all the aspects of making application to hold the event in Liverpool. CARRIED

Chamber meetings times and dates:

There was a discussion on regular scheduled director's and general meetings of the Chamber. Kerry Morash, who was on the executive of the previous year's chamber said that a regular scheduled meeting was more effective and provided members with adequate scheduling for attendance which they could plan attending more adequately.

It was decided to have **Directors (Council) meetings** scheduled the second Tuesday of each month and the times to be established convenient to members, with early morning meetings most preferred. Location to be the board room available at the Chamber office location.

Regular Chamber meetings would be scheduled the third Wednesday of each month, with possible alternate times, days or evening. Locations to be determined, possibly the South Shore Opportunities board room for workshops, etc.

Membership Packages

Brian will continue to work on this project.

Joint Stocks info has been updated. Susan to discuss payment, etc. payable to Joint Stocks with Cheryl Beaton who submitted the application in previous years.

Policy Discussion

Exemption of media from paying for luncheons, etc.

It was moved by Kevin and seconded by Brian that all those attending luncheons and functions where costs are involved shall have no exemption, unless they are guests of the Chamber. CARRIED

250th Discussion on Entertainment Stage, Clock etc.

Susan reported she had met with the ACOA representative Mark Townsend who indicated that any information pertaining to the previous application prepared by the committee chaired by George Mitchell would have to be provided by George or authorized to be made available from Mark's office.

There is a new funding program titled: Innovative Communities Fund" which needs a concept Information form submitted as the first step.

George Mitchell will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss this.

Shopping Local Initiatives

Mark Sloan asked what role the chamber could play in educating the local consumers on the importance of supporting local businesses. There is a lot of media coverage and emphasis on shopping local, supporting those businesses, not only in the agriculture sector but all manufacturing and retailers who depend on local dollars being spent and the spin-offs of that money.

A campaign to educate local consumers is necessary. The first step is to discuss with those who can help get the message out and what format or process works best.

Our very own Local Radio station QCCR FM would be a start to getting the message out. An email was received from Dick Henneberry, Sale Representative of QCCR asking to make a presentation on shopping locally. It was decided to invite Dick to the Board of Directors meeting on October 12 to discuss his proposal.

Barry indicated that we could start a regular radio show, with him as a host as well as Susan, and guests and topics of interest to the business community.

Also discussion centered on other initiatives such as

- ❖ "How Do I Increase My Business". Workshop
- ❖ Sales and Marketing Techniques
- ❖ Business Expo
- ❖ Signage and window displays
- ❖ Workshop on Social media such as Facebook, Websites, Twitter, Blogs, etc.

Mark Sloan to research whether a formal committee should be formed by the Chamber with the mandate of focusing on shopping local.

Small Business week, October 17 to 23.

It was decided to hold a workshop on Wednesday, October 20 at the South Shore Opportunities Board Room in the evening at 7 pm. Topic "How Do I Increase My Business" with marketing advice.

Monica Howard will gather information and research potential presenters for this evening.

Susan to contact Krista Harding of SSOP to reserve the room.

Executive Directors Report:

The Merrifield Luncheon held at Lane's Privateer Inn was well attended with 33 people attending. Mr. Merrifield gave an interesting speech telling those attending what his role as Minister of State/Transport involved and that he was responsible for "Anything That Moves". Marine transport, Rail transport, Highway Transport, Air Transport and Canada Post.

There were questions from the floor which he answered very eloquently. He indicated that there may be a "move" on the ferry service between Yarmouth and the Eastern US Coast. Discussions were ongoing on that issue.

Administrative duties were being performed, with new signing officers forms completed, new office established and eventually a new website design once we get assistance for that.

Next Directors meeting to be determined and notices sent out.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Monica Howard
Secretary

Prepared by Susan MacLeod
Executive Director

Signed:

Barry Tomalin,
President

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