

**South Queens Chamber of Commerce
Minutes**

Meeting held: March 18th, 2009 at On-Line Support

In Attendance:	Henry Sewuster	Mark Sapp
	Cheryl Beaton	David Noel
	Barry Tomalin	Kathy Ball
	George Mitchell	Clair Chandler
	Don Mackenzie	Taryn Jollimore
	Kerry Morash	John Wiles
	Vicki Conrad, MLA	Phaedra Charlton-Huskins
	Amber Trimm	

Henry called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

- 1) Guest Speaker: Vicki Conrad, MLA was introduced as our guest speaker. Vicki gave a talk about who she is, where she comes from and her life experiences. She then commented on the current political environment in NS, including the possibility of an election in the near future; that the House hasn't sat for too many months; that the budget hasn't been brought forth by the government yet; that the roll-out of the stimulus package is a concern, and the effect of the stimulus spending on the provincial debt. She also spoke about the NDP plan to turn NS into a 'learning province.' This would include partnering with the community colleges, expanding the number of seats available in the colleges, setting up an advisory council on learning. Vicki also touched on an NDP proposal for a manufacturing and processing tax credit.

A short Q&A followed.

- 2) George Mitchell reported on the work undertaken by the 250th anniversary committee. The committee has met several times and discussions have included
 - a. the idea of a Chamber of Commerce float in the Privateer Days parade;
 - b. working with the Student Option group at LRHS;
 - c. construction of a bandstand in the waterfront park. George stressed that this would not be a SQCC project, but should involve the Mersey Band. The Region would have to be involved regarding approval of design and location, but may also be available to help with accessing funding.
 - d. tracking down the old town clock and putting it on display. George has heard 4 stories about where it is. No definitive answer yet, so George will continue to enquire.

George and Amber met with the Mayor and was advised that RQM will not be undertaking any projects for the 250th, but may be able to assist with manpower and

financial support. Suggestion of business sponsored banners across Main Street promoting this and other events.

Some discussion on the mural on Home Hardware building and that it is starting to show its age. It is going to need to be revitalized and possible funding partners include the Region, SQCC and Don Mackenzie.

There is still much to do with the 250th event, including trying to get this theme included in the Christmas promotion.

- 3) Mark Sapp reported on a meeting hosted by the LQRDA for all South Shore Chambers of Commerce. The focus was on partnering with other area Chambers. Bridgewater Area C of C suggested joining forces with SQCC on presenting a Business Excellence Awards event. Ann O'Connell will be sending Amber a letter of proposal on this issue. Mark suggested that the topic should be placed on the web site Forum for an open discussion between members.
- 4) Membership Drive – Mark gave a quick summary of the progress SQCC has made and that now is the time to start talking to other businesses about becoming members. Taryn Jollimore and her group have prepared a membership benefit package that will be useful in attracting new members. If you are interested in having a copy of the package, contact Amber. We need to grow our membership.
- 5) Membership Renewal – The membership year starts April 1. Cheryl Beaton moved that she be authorized to mail out a membership application form to each current member with a covering letter explaining the due date for membership dues, and that new memberships paid in February and March of 2009 shall be considered to have paid for the 2009/10 year. Motion was seconded by Kerry Morash; motion passed unanimously.
- 6) Financial Report - Cheryl Beaton presented her financial report to date – copy attached. Included were detailed reports of revenue and expenses for the Christmas Committee and the Meet & Greet event.

She also presented a draft budget for discussion. After some discussion Mark Sapp moved that we approve the presented budget with an amendment to add \$500 to the Expense side for the 250th Anniversary Committee. Don Mackenzie seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- 7) Audit Committee – the bylaws require that the financial reports prepared by the Treasurer be reviewed by an internal audit committee. This has generally been done by a committee of two volunteers. David Noel and Sheldon Brannen have volunteered to do this. It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously that they be appointed to serve as the Audit Committee.

- 8) AGM – There was a discussion about where to hold the Annual General Meeting, and whether there would be a guest speaker. White Point Beach Resort has offered to host the event, and Darrell Dexter has requested an opportunity to speak. There was a consensus that this should be left to the directors to make the required decisions.

Mark stated that the Meet & Greet event did not spend the entire \$ 1200 budget, and proposed that the remaining \$ 600 be allocated to the AGM budget. Cheryl moved that this be done; motion seconded; motion passed with one dissenting vote (David Noel).

- 9) Collaborative Strategies in Community Development – Amber reported on the workshop she attended on March 6th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10