

Town of Stewiacke
Business and Tourism Committee

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, March 5th, 2015

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM by the Chair, Susan Creelman.

2. Present

Susan Creelman - Chair, Heather Hamilton, Ann Marie Hay, Brian Harrison,
Chad Ramsay, Darren Schriver, Jim McMorran

Regrets

Regrets were received from Marla Taylor, Don Hay, Alan Johnson

3. Changes to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as circulated.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by Jim McMorran, seconded by Darren Schriver, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as circulated.

5. Business Arising From the Minutes

5.1 Promotion Brochure

Susan Creelman reported that meetings have been held to develop a design, what to focus on and hi-light features of Stewiacke for the brochure. Thinking outside the box is a key tactic on how to promote businesses and area. The town is also looking into sharing the services of a Development Officer with the Colchester County. While sharing might not be an option at this time we also asked to be a part of their Business Development Committee as an observer. We are awaiting a response".

5.2 Signage - On Going

5.3 Strategic Plan Sub-Committee - On Going

5.4 Sponsorship of Business Expo

As previously mentioned in minutes of the B & T committee, the Town had agreed to sponsor the Business Expo which due to inclement weather had to be cancelled. SACBA is looking at re-scheduling the Expo at a time when the weather will not be such a factor. There were 38 businesses signed up out of a capacity for 40. Last year=s Expo had 42 signed up. Also Mayor of Colchester wants to be kept informed of the rescheduled date.

5.5 CBC Correspondent - On Going

5.6 Committee Members - On Going

5.7 Town Days

A meeting is being held on March 11 2015 on the Town Days. Volunteers are still needed.

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6. New Business

6.1 Financial Condition Index

Susan Creelman circulated a chart on the subject relating to the Town of Stewiacke reflecting the status of the Town two years ago. An updated Index now shows only three (3) categories in the red. If six (6) or more Indices occur, Service NS intervenes with the respective municipality. The Town council meeting will be addressing budget and capital expenditures (buildings, paving, etc.)

6.2 New Town Hall Building

Susan Creelman sought opinions on this matter. A number of comments were put forth:

- Concern about the cost of the building;
- Hard look maintenance of existing buildings (town hall, public works buildings);
- Consolidation of Town offices will become more efficient and less costly versus the 2 older building we have now;
- New building to include Town office, Council Chamber, Library, Town offices, Public Works office;
- The Colchester county is committed to cover 25 % cost to construct building and 25% operating costs. It was noted that 33% of the library patrons are from East Hants;
- Federal grants are available to assist in the financing;
- Consideration be given for room space for rental to groups;
- Consideration should be given to the renting of alternative space for the next few years to allow for financial viability;
- Concern expressed about the future economy, the future of towns in NS;
- Concern expressed about the condition and space of current Library - "it is deplorable";
- Concerns expressed re current tax rate and future potential increases;
- All agreed that the library is a most important resource to the community and is an important factor in any discussions on this subject.

7. Committee Reports - No Reports

8. Member Report

8.1 SACBA Update

Mike Allison who joined the meeting later reported that SACBA has four (4) new members and although cancelled because of the weather, the Business Expo was a success in raising SACBA=s profile in the community.

9. Next Meeting

PLEASE NOTE:

The next meeting of the B & T Committee will be on Thursday, **April 9th, 2015**, 8:30 AM in the Council Chamber.

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10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM

Respectfully submitted.

Susan Creelman, Chair

Jim McMorran, Secretary