

## **Town of Stewiacke**

### **Business and Tourism Committee**

#### **Minutes: May 7, 2020 VIA ZOOM**

### **1. Opening and Welcome**

1.1- Regrets - Present – Chair councillor Susan Creelman, Don Hay, Brian Harrison, Councillor Mary Commo, Marla Taylor, Jeff Gray, Anna Nibby-Woods, and CAO Dale Bogle.

Regrets – Darren Schriver, Natasha Head

1.2 Guests - Brennan Gillis, TCPEP, Andrea Jackson, ACOA

### **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

2.1 March 5, 2020 – Tabled to next meeting

### **3. Business Arising From the Minutes**

3.1 – and 3.2 VIC Update – Updates from Don and Susan on renovations and upgrades at Mastodon Ridge planning for June opening. No word yet from Province on when and how VIC's will open. Chamber has advised there will be funding.

3.3- Business Breakfast - Cancelled for this year re COVID 19 as reported by Susan

3.4- Council update – Susan updated Committee on efforts by Council's Pandemic Response Committee.

### **4. New Business**

4.1 – Coupon Book - Mary has 8-10 businesses involved,

4.2 - Tide Brochure and Stewiacke map – Mary reported these are in progress.

4.3 – Provincial Tax Deferral Program – COVID - Susan and Dale reported Council expecting a program supported by Provincial Government to help Municipalities with cash flow as it is expected some residents and businesses revenues are impacted by COVID. This will allow residents and businesses to apply for 6 months interest relief and then repayment over a 24 month period at a nominal interest rate.

4.4 – COVID 19 – Round table discussion on how COVID 19 affecting committee members and local business. Tourism industry severely affected restaurants with drive through doing OK, others impacted in their operation by self distancing. Tourism NS will be promoting “staycations” in NS for this season. Brennan advised Destination Marketing Plan suspended re COVID but there has been a big uptake in business retention strategies and advice along with the need for a regional marketing strategy.

Dale did note the cooperation of the business community when we had a situation of residents not observing the Health Protection Act. Town is creating a PPE (personal protective equipment) inventory. Construction is increasing and there is still work being done re the Boardwalk and grant applications.

**5. Member Reports** – Jeff mentioned the level of professionalism Dale and staff have used during the pandemic.

## **6. Dates to Remember**

May 10<sup>th</sup> – Mothers Day take out dinner @ Fox Hollow 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

June 4 2020 – Business Breakfast @ Fox Hollow – CANCELLED – we will have ZOOM meeting

June 13 2020 – Sisterhood Fibre event @ Community Centre part of Rhubarb Festival – postponed to July 25 2020??

**7. Next Meeting** June 4 2020 - 9:00 AM

**8. Adjournment** – 10:05

Minutes recorded Susan Creelman