

BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Tuesday, Oct. 06 2015 – UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8:00 A.M.
WEBSITE: www.brucemineschamber.com
Email: info@brucemineschamber.com

Present:

Michael Peever – Mae-Ger Treasures
Larry Peterson – Peterson & Peterson Law Firm
Danielle Nadon-Vaux – Employment Solutions
Arlene Romberg – Wyz Gyz Chip Wagon
Cheryl MacKay – North Channel Current
Carl MacKenzie – Twp. Councillor
Rick O'Hara - Town Councillor
Crystal Reader - Librarian

Guests: none

Regrets: Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse

Call to Order:

Michael Peever called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Past Minutes:

Larry Peterson + Arlene Romberg that the minutes of Sept. 01, 2015 be adopted as presented - carried

Treasurer's Report:

Larry Peterson + Carl MacKenzie that the Treasurer's report be adopted as presented. – carried

French Fry:

Larry Peterson reviewed the excellent notes by Joyce Boismier on the French fry project. Arlene is prepared to help work out notes and procedures.

Introduction of Those at Meeting:

Michael Peever noted that often those people attending the Chamber meeting do not know exactly what each person does or their skills. Hence those in attendance introduced and gave a brief description of their activities

Mike Peever – has shut down Mae-Ger Treasures – is now operating the antique store in the old bank and Mariner's Cove + an auctioneer + an appraiser

Larry Peterson – a business lawyer/real estate/wills/powers of attorney/American estate/non-profit corporations/business corporations/partnerships, operating a family business since 1899

Carl MacKenzie - Township Councillor, maple syrup producer

Danielle Nadon-Vaux – works out of the Blind River office – Employment Solutions

- Talked about employer grants for staff upgrading
- Is willing to do a presentation at a meeting as to the services being offered to employers and employees.

Cheryl MacKay – North Channel Current

- Talked about a new young couple moving to Richards Landing and the gentleman is a computer programmer who worked with retail chains – is willing to put on seminars which this Chamber may be interested in.
- Owns the North Channel Current – an online internet news site. Covers from Echo Bay to Blind River. Puts up local stories, community events, etc. has writers who do monthly articles – fishing, cooking, local histories

Arlene Romberg – chip truck/food services at auctions or other events

Richard O'Hara – retired electrician, Town councillor, passion for marina and campground

Crystal Reader – CAO of the library.

Arena:

The Chamber is willing to assist in the dealings with the arena once the Councils have made their decision. Once decisions are made the Chamber can assist one way or the other in the 5 year plan. Many suggestions have come forward for the use of the arena. There is a need to develop a business plan.

Lighthaven:

An email has been received from a representative from Lighthaven requesting help concerning the municipal tax liability as it applied to a charity. There is a need to develop a business plan.

Artisan Market:

Marla McPhee sent in the following report:

The Artisan Market 2015 was a great experience. The committee of the Artisan Market feel the market reached it's goal in that it united the community and reached out to vendors, neighbors and tourists of the area. We joined together local talent and products and provided

a place of cultural experience, shopping and enjoyment. The market brought dollars to Bruce Mines and also showcased the beautiful waterfront. The market is a project which could continue to grow and become a vital part of the town's summer season.

The Artisan Market committee would like to thank the town of Bruce Mines for providing power to the pavilion, for the delivery and pick up of the tables, for the use of the wonderful pavilion and town hall, printing of brochures and for the road side signs. We would like to thank the Bruce Mines and District Chamber of Commerce for promoting the market by sponsoring and ad in the North Shore Sentinel and for Larry's awesome promotion emails. We are happy to report \$890 has been submitted to the town of Bruce Mines, this money was collected from table rentals. Recognition also needs to be given to James Werner who constructed, delivered and picked up each market day, the very large, wonderful market sign.

The vendors have been very positive about the market and we all look forward to seeing what next year brings. Thank you to all who supported the Artisan Market.

Taya Mara, Kit Purnis, Ruth MacInnes, Marla McPhee

Art Shows:

New art shows have to have someone who has the passion and vision to make it happen for years to come and not be a "one-show-wonder".

Grant Applications:

There is a need for someone who is used to and familiar with grant applications to apply for available government grants to support various Chamber projects.

Insurance: (old report)

Mike reported that Arlene and Larry have been meeting on a weekly basis. Arlene felt it was time for a review. With Four & Friends no longer active – there is a need to review and perhaps trim back on the premium.

Chamber Attendances:

One morning a month is not hard to arrange for people to attend the monthly Chamber meetings. There are benefits for people attending the Chamber meetings – if you don't participate, you don't benefit.

Public Information:

The Township of Johnson newsletter is a wonderful example of township information for its residents. Web sites are not always current and hard copy is always handy to have to refer to immediately instead of booting up the computer. Most residents in the area are retired and elderly and paper handouts are most appreciated.

What Do You Expect from the Chamber:

There are questions as to what the public expects from the Chamber. The Chamber has been promoting the area since the 1800s.

Some people liked the joint projects with the Chamber and Fresh Water Coalition by bringing in guest speakers of interest to various groups.

Bruce Mines Community Hall :

There was some discussion for curtains to cover the southerly windows to stop the glare of the sun.

Library:

No report

Charity Auction for the Chamber:

Hope to be in the Fall – Mike needs a committee to be formed to help with this project. The Chamber needs a project. The Chamber has diversified from French friers to cotton candy and other projects would help make the chamber more money and bring more activity to local events.

Mike did a charitable auction for Searchmont Ski Resort, Algoma Manor (dessert auction) + Wesleyan Church – it is a fun event.

AKTA:

Pat Peterson sent in a report that advertisers have to get their payments in by mid October. Mike Peever reported that the advertisers are also on the web so there is double exposure – booklet + internet. AKTA is a fabulous source of advertising at a very inexpensive rate.

Facebook:

No report

Volunteer Organization:

There is a need for a centralized volunteer organization. Four & Friends had an incredible list of volunteers who called the organizers to ensure they were listed on the volunteer list. Four & Friends found the “magic” in getting and keeping volunteers.

Joint Advertising Committee (old report)

Michael Peever is aware that many organizations do not have money to promote their various activities. There is a need for a Community Calendar which can be updated on a daily basis. Mike, Lory and Mike Jones are willing to meet to discuss how to approach this issue. Larry mentioned about a 6 sided kiosk with cedar shake roof and a keeper of the key to keep the information updated. There would be an area for people to put in their brochures.

Welcome Package:

No report

GeoThermal: (old report)

Mike Jones reported that he received from Peter Spik a report on the geothermal project and wondered if it was still alive. Brian gave a status report. There is a geothermal firm in Sault Ste. Marie who are interested in the possibilities in Bruce Mines.

Policy & Procedures: (old report)

Arlene and Pat have been working on roughing out a Policy and Procedures for the Chamber . Larry reported that he is checking out Abuse Policy from other organizations in order to create a policy for the Chamber.

Web Site: (old report)

Arlene Romberg is working with George Cragg on updating the Chamber website.

Membership:

No report

Simpson Mine Shaft:

No report

Bruce Mines Historical Society:

No report

Rydal Bank Historical Society:

Larry Peterson reported that the annual Turkey Dinner is being held at the Rydal Bank Community Hall this Monday – sponsored by the Rydal Bank Historical Society.

Library:

No report

Royal Canadian Legion:

No report

Lions Club:

No report

SnoGlyders:

No report

Agricultural Society:

No report

Horticultural Society:

No report

Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce:

No report

North Channel Marine Tourism Association:

No report

Algoma Kinnewabi Tourist Association:

Pat Peterson sent in a report that businesses will be contacted in July to advertise in Algoma Country – the goal is to have a 2 page spread covering businesses in Bruce Mines, Plummer Additional and Johnson Township

North Channel Geocache Event:

No report

ADSAB:

No report

Arena:

No report

Business Student Scholarships:

Mike Peever noted that a donation to a scholarship that would be administered by the school would probably be our best option. He will investigate further.

Miscellaneous: - (old report)

Howie Bowes suggested that we should have a presence in the Ermatinger Old Stone House on Bay St in the Sault. We could be advertising our Mine Shaft attractions, Bruce Mines being the first Copper Mine, etc. Our Copper Mine history also has the potential to lead to designation of a “National Historic Site” which could bring related funding and destination tourism.

Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition:

No report

Miscellaneous:

None

Next Meeting:

Tuesday Nov. 3, 2015 at the Union Library at 8:00 a.m.

Executive Meeting:

TBA

Adjournment:

At 9:00 a.m.