

BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Tuesday, March 01, 2016 – UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8:00 A.M.
WEBSITE: www.brucemineschamber.com
Email: info@brucemineschamber.com

Present:

Arlene Romberg – Wyz-Gyz French Fries
Larry Peterson – Peterson & Peterson Law Firm
Jim McCulloch – Retired
Lois Hart – Registered Psychotherapist
Edith Orr – Desbarats Farmers Market
Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse
Michael Peever – Mae-Ger Treasures
Rick O'Hara – Town Councillor
Cheryl MacKay – North Channel Current

Guests:

None

Regrets:

Sharon Hunter – Black Bird North Arts

Call to Order:

Michael Peever called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Past Minutes:

Feb. minutes - Ruth MacInnes - Heart & Hands (in error – not present)
Kim Sloane was present

Motion: Larry Peterson + Edith Orr that the minutes of Feb. 02, 2016 be adopted as amended - **carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: Larry Peterson – Lois Hart that the Treasurers report be adopted as presented – **carried**

Classic Car show and Community Day:

It was reported that the Classic Car show + Community Day will be combined in one event complete with fireworks.

Social Media Seminar:

Pat Peterson reported that a thank you note has been sent to the Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre for sponsoring the Social Media workshops in Bruce Mines and St Joseph Island. They totally paid for all the expenses and it was excellent exposure for the Bruce Mines Chamber of Commerce as co-hosts of the event.

Congratulations to Pat Peterson & Cheryl McKay on setting up the social media seminar and working with the St. Joseph Island Chamber of Commerce. The Innovation Centre will be interested in doing more shared projects with the Chamber. About 28 people attended in St. Joe seminar and about 33 people attended in Bruce Mines seminar.

Barter in Bruce Mines:

There is a need for someone to take this over as head person. The event is scheduled for Sat. May 7th – Mother's Day Weekend. The community hall is used and tables outside. Hall tables rent for \$10.00 a table

Algoma Kinniwabi Tourist Association:

Pat Peterson reported that membership dues of \$367.00 are now due and the Town has been notified to see if they wish to share the membership.

North Channel Marine Tourism Council:

Pat Peterson reported:

“The Chamber has paid for the Shopping bags and for the membership. One or 2 representatives from the Chamber are planning to attend the 2016 General Meeting in April in Blind River. The cost is \$75.00 each. In past years the Town has paid for 1 person to attend and a request will be sent to the Town to see if they will do so again this year.

I would like to put a motion on the floor that if a second person attends that the Chamber cover the \$75.00 fee.

A marina brochure is in the process of being developed to put in the shopping bags and to have at the marina and for marketing and Jim McCulloch is in charge and will not give his update.”

Motion: Pat Peterson + Arlene Romberg that Chamber pay the admission fee of \$75.00 for Jim McCulloch to attend the Annual General Meeting in April 2016 – **carried**

Marina Brochure:

Jim McCulloch reported and presented a draft brochure of the Marina. The final draft will be given to Rick O’Hara for the Council meeting on Mon. March 7th.

Need sponsorship to cover the cost of publishing 500 2 sided black and white \$65.60 – 500 2 sided colour \$215.00

Motion: Jim McCulloch + Lois Hart that the Chamber approach the Town Council about sharing the cost on the publication on a 50/50 basis. – **carried**

Placemat Project:

Edith handed out the form for Placemat advertising.

The museum will take a spot – need to advertise the mine shaft, mine trail, campground and marina. Perhaps the Town and Chamber could share the advertisement.

Motion: Pat Peterson + Cheryl McKay that the Chamber take 1 spot for \$60.00 – **carried**

Pat will give Edith that artwork for the advertisement.

Johnson Farmers Market:

Edith approached Johnson Twp Council who supports the expansion

Edith approached the Bavarian Inn who are agreeable to share their parking lot and setting up tables.

51% of the Vendors must be farmers to be a farmers market for insurance purposes. There is a need to recruit farmers who prepared to go to the market and there has to be a commitment by the participants.

Since the Bruce Mines Market is mid-week – Wednesday for July and August – some of the Johnson Farmers would be interested in participating in Bruce Mines mid-week and Johnson on Saturdays

Citizen of the Year:

Larry Peterson reported that the Citizen of the Year Dinner honouring Alan & Evelyn Miller went well with guests coming in from Toronto and Barrie for the evening. Presentations of Appreciation were made by the Chamber, the Town, the Provincial Member of Parliament and Federal Member of Parliament. Mike Peever and Cheryl McKay commented on how many “liked” or “shared” the presentation.

Arena:

No report

Canada Summer Jobs – due Feb. 26, 2016: (old report)

Post meeting – nothing came of this opportunity

Edith Orr wondered if the Chamber is interested in the program.

The chamber could hire the Supervisor – 6 to 16 weeks. Summer Jobs are about 8 -9 weeks. Program will pay minimum wage + mandatory. Would the chamber up the wage a couple of dollars to attract a good supervisor?

Supervisor would help with the Car Show, Simpson Mine Shaft, Museum + other public events. Supervisor would put the students where they are most useful – free time, maintaining the town flower boxes.

Supervisor and student could work out of CAFWC offices

Supervisor has to be post-secondary education – need to create a training manual.

Donation Boxes:

They are in – signs promoting the CASS business student scholarship is being made up.

Grant Application Program: (Post Meeting)

Valerie Harting sent an email to Larry Peterson offering her experience, time and talent is preparing Grant Applications for any organization who wishes to apply. This is one offer the two Historical Societies and the Chamber cannot afford to let slip by.

French Fry: (old report)

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

Lighthaven: (old report)

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:

An email was received from the Artisan Committee confirming they will not be doing the market in 2016 and if anyone is interested in continuing or doing something similar, the Committee will be happy to help based on their 2015 experience.

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: (old report)

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: (old report)

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: (old report)

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 (post meeting)

No report but anyone travelling through town cannot help but be impressed by the activity in that building – congratulations to the Town Council and Hall Committee !

Library:

No report

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 Craig on updating the Chamber website.

Membership:

No report

Simpson Mine Shaft:

No report

Bruce Mines Historical Society: (old report)

Glen Ansell submitted the following report:

Here is my list of museum activities for 2015.

- Booth at the Bruce Mines Barter
- Booth at the Bruce Mines Car Show
- Booth at the Bruce Mines Community Day

- Visit to the Lighthouse Retirement home.
- Fixing the stone stairs, painting wooden stairs, painting shelves.
- Installation of security cameras.
- Hiring and training three student museum attendants, with funding from three different sources
- Digitizing museum artefacts. Ongoing. Each item must be photographed and described, the donor identified, and the information stored on computer. A huge project run by Connie Bennett.
- Presentation of the plaque honoring Ted Leahy to his daughter.
- Sale of the Ted Leahy book – A History of Mining in Bruce Mines.
- Creation of scrap books based on information from the Ted Leahy book.
- Setting up the Travel Info Centre.
- Organizing our reliable and always cheerful volunteers for the months of May and September.
- Annual General meeting

Ron Smith, President, provided an update that the Historical Society has once again applied for the Young Canada Works Grant for student funding this coming summer.

Rydal Bank Historical Society: (old report)

Jean Hershey sent in the following report:

With the start of December, the Society once again has turned on the lights in the Rydal Bank Church to add to the spirit of the season for those travelling Highway 638 during the holiday. Over the years the Society has received many favourable comments on this practice.

The hike with Vern Harnden in November was a great success. Five individuals joined Vern to hike through the bush to learn about the Rock Lake Copper Mine Site and the Ophir/Havillah Gold Mine Site. Vern's generosity in sharing his time and knowledge of the area is greatly appreciated. Vern has offered to conduct this hike again in the Spring as a number of people expressed interest but were unavailable for the November date. We will keep people posted. We couldn't wish for better weather than we had this November.

Library:

No report

Royal Canadian Legion:

No report

Lions Club:

No report

Executive

President – Arline Connell

Secretary – Carol Rickard

Treasurer – Patsy Golec

Meetings held 1st Thursday of the month from September to June at Light Haven, 7:30pm.

SnoGlyders:

No report – President Chris McMillan phone number is 705-941-8700 and email anglerchris@bell.net.

Agricultural Society:

No report

Horticultural Society:

No report

2016 officers are:

Betty-Jean Smith as President;
Paula Matheson as Vice-President
Maggie Willis Secretary-Treasurer.

Interesting stats: membership for 2015 = 73 which is 26% higher than previous year AND our volunteer hours increased by 30% - enthusiastic momentum in our group.

Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce:

Pat Peterson reported that the Soo Chamber is now on Facebook so you can "like" them and receive their upcoming events.

North Channel Geocache Event:

No report

ADSAB:

No report

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, April 5, 2016 at the Union Library at 8:00 a.m.

Executive Meeting:

TBA

Adjournment:

At 9:05 a.m.