

**West Grey Chamber of Commerce  
Executive Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2016**

Attending: Nella Monaco-Wells, Lois Harris, Cheryl Lindsay, Brenda Newton, Ruth Owler, Rob Thompson

Nella called the meeting to order. Motion to accept the agenda by Rob, seconded by Ruth. Carried.

Acceptance of the December 2, 2015 minutes was moved by Rob, seconded by Ruth. Carried.

**Business arising from last meeting:**

- Conversation about the success of the West Grey Christmas shop to win promotion revolved around getting feedback from businesses (Stephanie volunteered to find out). We may do ours earlier or later than the BIA's. There was also some discussion around the radio ads. It was agreed to bring forward the discussion for planning next year.
- Nella reported that the Neustadt businesses were undecided as to whether to form a Neustadt Committee via the Chamber. Rob Thompson agreed to find out from Doug Hutchinson.
- Nella brought up planning for the next networking session. She sent out an email asking members if they wanted to host the session. She suggested that we divide up the list of members and make phone calls to ask members to come to the next session. She's hoping to have a place and time fixed before the end of January. Cheryl and Lois volunteered to make phone calls to get businesses to come out.
- Warrior weekend hockey tournament - posters are up in the arena already promoting the November, 2016 event. Rob said that the recreational committee will be putting on their shopping expo the weekend before this event, so the Chamber should not be doing one on the Warrior weekend because the timing is too close together. A conversation ensued about what the Chamber can do to help out. Ruth suggested putting up a sign in the arena promoting the Chamber.

Cheryl volunteered to follow up printers and find out how much a sign would cost and Rob volunteered to check with arena administrators to find out how much they charge to rent for space.

Ruth also suggested that the Chamber could do a draw for West Grey shopping bucks on the day of the tournament. We will need to have volunteers to staff the booth. It was decided to go forward with this idea. Rob Thompson volunteered to inform Tom Hutchinson of our intention.

- Lois presented her report on the Grey-Bruce-Simcoe tourism conference on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Several opportunities for funding from different programs like Celebrate Ontario. Best bet for funding anything we'd like to do would probably be the Trillium Foundation. She also mentioned the free customer service training that's available on the RT07 website (<http://rto7.ca/Public/Resources/BGS-Tourism-Service-Excellence-Training>) Report is attached to the minutes.
- Planning for the AGM. Stephanie has offered the OLG for hosting the next AGM. Brenda suggested that Hanover isn't in West Grey, and we should have it at a venue that's in West Grey. Rob Thompson suggested the Top End Restaurant and Lois volunteered to check with the owner Mary Anne Lewis re: whether they would be able to accommodate the AGM.
- A decision was made to maintain board meetings - which involves very few people - at Pebbles Restaurant during the winter months, when driving conditions are unpredictable. We'll work toward alternating venues between Durham and Neustadt in spring. A decision on when the AGM will be held was tabled until next month's meeting.

The treasurer's report was tabled by Brenda. She said that the 'Shop to Win' promotion broke even. The Chamber's revenue for December was \$1,582.24 and expenses were \$1,807.80. Current balance is \$13,750.41. Brenda motioned the report's acceptance and Lois seconded. Carried.

Nella provided the website report. 1,347 page views.

Ruth suggested that the West Grey website should be optimized so we can track what people are doing when they come to the site. Nella said she would see about that.

We received a nice thank-you card from the Neustadt firefighters for supporting their Santa Claus parade.

The next meeting will be held on February 2, 2016. Rob motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ruth seconded. Carried.

