

West Grey Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

May 2, 2016

The Coach House Restaurant - Hanover Raceway

Attendees: Mayor Kevin Eccles, Councillor Rob Thompson, Councillor Carol Lawrence, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Bryan Plumstead (Grey County Economic Development) Cheryl Lindsay (Speech-Language Pathologist), Nella Monaco-Wells and Tim Wells (The Bookstore), Lois Harris and Rob Wilson (WordsWorkCommunications), Debbie Ebanks (Durham Art Gallery) Tom and Peg Hutchinson (T&P Logistics), Lee Rogister (SEDC), Ruth Owler (Hanover Post), Stephanie Crilly (OLG Slots), Carol Dyck (Village Creations), Kathy & Rick Gamblen (Grey Bruce Insurance Agency), Jamie Callan (It's My Pleasure), Megan Kanters (YMCA), Michele and Kevin Bossi (Garafraxa Cafe), Leigh Aulhouse (West Grey Progress), Bill Wilkinson (Wilkinson Mediation Services), Dick and Gale O'Brien (Uncle Richard's Maple Syrup), Mark Loeffler (At the Movies), Ross Adams (Y Employment Services), Don Crosby (West Grey Progress)

Mayor Eccles was Master of Ceremonies. He thanked the chamber members for attending, the staff of the restaurant for the meal and introduced the councilors who were in attendance. After saying grace and having a lovely buffet meal, the business meeting was called to order.

Cheryl Lindsay moved to accept the meeting agenda and Stephanie Crilly seconded.

In the May 4th AGM minutes, Nella pointed out that Steve Field introduced speakers, not her. Dick O'Brien moved the minutes be passed as amended. Seconded by Michele Bossi. Motion carried.

Lois read out the Secretary's report. Ruth Owler moved to accept and Mark Loeffler seconded. Motion carried.

In Brenda Newton's absence due to illness, Cheryl Lindsay read out the Treasurer's Report. Dick O'Brien asked what happened to the Chamber's long-term investment. Nella Monaco-Wells explained that the GIC was cashed in and put into the account for use in community activities. The Chamber had a \$13,781 surplus at the end of the year. Cheryl Lindsay moved to accept the report and Debbie Ebanks seconded. Motion carried.

Nella spoke about board nominations, asked for nominations from the floor and read out the directors list for 2016: Nella Monaco-Wells - President., Cheryl Lindsay

- Vice-President, Brenda Newton - Treasurer, Lois Harris - Secretary, Stephanie Crilly - Director, Ruth Owler - Director, Carol Dyck - Director.

Dick O'Brien moved to accept the board of directors and Bryan Plumstead seconded.

Bryan Plumstead, manager of the Grey County Economic Development and Tourism office, gave a presentation about the Grey County strategic plan and the activities the County is engaged in to retain and attract businesses.

He said that the county's vision is "Grey County is open for business", and that the county wants to create an environment in which businesses can create jobs. They're working with existing businesses first, then reaching out to attract new business.

He talked about a number of initiatives, including monthly business tours, the Southwest Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project (aimed at bringing ultra high-speed broadband to every community), an Ag. 4.0 conference in November, the revamped 'VisitGrey.ca' website and wayfinding signage. He also said there will be familiarization tours of Grey County on June 7th and 8th.

Mayor Eccles thanked Bryan for the presentation and Nella wrapped up the meeting by giving thank-you gifts to Mayor Eccles and Mr. Plumstead, thanking everyone for coming and the restaurant staff for pulling together the dinner on short notice. The meeting was adjourned.