

**West Grey Chamber of Commerce
Executive Meeting Minutes
Pebbles Restaurant
August 9, 2016
5:30 p.m.**

Attending: Nella Monaco-Wells, Lois Harris, Rob Thompson, Brenda Newton, Carol Dyck.

Nella called the meeting to order. Motion to accept the agenda by Lois, seconded by Brenda. Carried.

Acceptance of June 8, 2016 minutes was moved by Carol, seconded by Brenda. Carried.

Business arising from last meeting:

- Business awards program. Carol mentioned that Lee at SEDC is on holidays.
- Directory map for Warrior Weekend for November - Nella was contacted by the Grey County GIS Specialist for a free digital mapping of West Grey Chamber of Commerce Business Directory. There will be printed copies of the map given out during that weekend. It will be added to the Chamber's website as well.
- Nella did an update on the photo contest - deadline is August 19th and prizes to be awarded on August 27th. Facebook visitors will be judging the photos. Local papers and the radio stations (Country 93.7, and TheRiver 88.7) have been supportive of the contest.
- Carol said that the Board members should not be eligible to enter the contest. Said it should be written in the rules for the contest. All agreed.
- A discussion was had regarding what we should do about a membership drive. Doug Hutchinson had suggested we have an event to pull people in. It was decided that an e-mail could be sent to current membership with an inventory of all the services the Chamber provides and the services/events we're planning along with an invitation to a social networking/membership drive with barbeque.

A tentative date of September 21st from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. was set. Carol Dyck volunteered to find out the availability of Centennial Hall in Ayton, and she would check about catering. Lois volunteered to draft the inventory and an agenda for the session.

- Rob mentioned that there will be a Job Fair in March, 2017 through the YMCA. All businesses will be invited to it. Expanded this year to a community event targeting campgrounds as well. Will be having a number of giveaways made - t-shirts, bags, etc. Carol said it would be great to have a presence from the Chamber. Rob offered to staff the booth for the Chamber.
- Carol and Lois delivered a report-back on the Neustadt pilot project subcommittee's meeting from the night before. Rose Austin from SEDC is leading with the project by drafting the application for FEDDev funding - deadline is August 31st.

The idea is to use three adjoining empty storefronts owned by Perry Robinson in Neustadt as a place to provide retail space for local artists and craftspeople to sell their products. A project co-ordinator would need to be hired to line up businesses for the stores to rent space for a length of time - ideally for the spring and summer tourist season. Saugeen Artists will specifically be asked if they would be interested. If successful, the model could be used in Ayton and Durham.

Brenda delivered the Treasurer's Report. Balance is \$12,141.55 at the end of July. A Chamber member will be needed to take over for the Treasurer position. Brenda moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Rob seconded. Carried.

Membership update - Nella said we have two new members - BDO and Riverside Campground.

Nella delivered the website update: 69 Likes on Facebook, 3,235 hits to the website in June/July - top towns - Toronto, Hanover, Saugeen Shores.

Correspondence - For the Durham Community Health Care Foundation Gala, it was decided that we match last year's contribution of \$250. Brenda agreed to call Charmaine to confirm the donation.

West Grey Public Library letter was filed for information. We also filed for information a letter from a motivational speaker promoting his services.

Other business - Rob Thompson mentioned that Doug Hutchison was hosting a meeting about Canada 150 in Centennial Hall at 7 p.m.

The next meeting of the Chamber Board will be on September 7, 2016 at Pebbles at 5:30 p.m. Carol moved to adjourn the meeting and Lois seconded. Motion carried.

