

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

Attending: Nella Monaco-Wells, Lois Harris, Rob Thompson, Kevin Tremble, Ruth Owler, Stephanie Crilly

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

Acceptance of September 7, 2016 minutes was moved by Rob, seconded by Lois. Carried.

Business arising from last meeting:

- Business awards sub-committee was struck with Stephanie, Carol, Nella, Ruth and Kevin on it. A date for the first meeting will be determined at the brainstorming session scheduled for October 25th (see next point).
- We all expressed disappointment that the September 21st membership drive had to be canceled. Stephanie suggested developing a plan for the year - advertising opportunities and events. Also said that we need to concentrate on hiring West Grey businesses for Chamber functions. Brainstorming scheduled for October 25th. Lois to find out if Saugeen Economic Development boardroom will be available.
- Next networking will be during the first week of November at the Garafraxa.
- Next meeting will be November 15th at 5:30 p.m. at Pebbles.
- Rob said the proposal to develop a pop-up business centre at the vacant store in Neustadt was well-received by the Economic Development Committee of the West Grey Council. Rose Austin will be proceeding with a Trillium Foundation application in addition to the FedDev application that is already in play.

There was a discussion about whether or not the Chamber should support a municipal by-law that would allow businesses that are not already exempted under the Retail Business Holidays Act to open on statutory holidays. Lois is to send out the package that the municipality provided for the board's consideration. Stephanie offered to speak to the manager of the Foodland store to see if there was an appetite from Sobeys to support such a by-law.

Rob will be bringing forward to council the suggestion that the municipality ought to belong to the Chamber, since most other municipalities do.

Treasurer's report was deferred and will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Stephanie said that the OLG will be going into private ownership, and wasn't sure if the new owners would be interested in belonging to the Chamber.

Nella said that there were 1,289 hits on the Chamber website last month, and we're up to 91 likes on Facebook. She also said that the photo contest is getting some traction, and asked that board members distribute flyers around the communities to get more interest.

A discussion was had regarding the promotional map and calendar, and Stephanie and Ruth suggested that we hire a professional graphic designer to do the job. Lois offered to look up some local companies for the tender. Kevin said that he had a coupon from Progressive Results Group, a designer from Hanover.

We received a nice Thank You card from Brenda for the send-off we gave her for being our longstanding Treasurer.

We decided to put a half-page ad into the Thunder Cats program listing all the businesses in the Chamber.

Someone will bring a Spotlight newspaper to the brainstorming session to consider it for advertising.

Lois, Carol, Doug and Rob are going to the Vibrant Villages conference on October 19th, and will report back at the next Chamber meeting.

Stephanie moved to adjourn, and Ruth seconded. Carried.