

**West Grey Chamber of Commerce
Executive Meeting Minutes
West Grey Library
March 7, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

Attending: Nella Monaco-Wells, Lois Harris, Rob Thompson, Kevin Tremble, Cheryl Lindsay, Ruth Owler. Carol Dyck, Special Guest – Kim Storz, head librarian, West Grey Library

Nella called the meeting to order.

Motion to accept the agenda by Rob , seconded by Carol. Carried.

Acceptance of January 10, 2017 minutes was moved by Carol, seconded by Lois. Carried.

Business arising from last meeting:

- Map and directory – Nella presented a draft of the map and directory. Several suggestions came from the board on improvements that could be made, and Nella will send another version of the map and directory within a couple of weeks to board members.
- Business Awards – it was decided that the business awards would only consist of a business of the year award, as a start, and we can add more awards on next year, if there's an appetite for the program. Ruth Owler volunteered to work out how this can be done per nominations, marketing, etc. Award to be presented at the AGM.
- Rob to provide an update about the status of the municipality per its membership in the Chamber of Commerce
- A discussion regarding the AGM was held and a tentative date of May 16th was fixed. Lois volunteered to look up the bylaws about when the AGM needs to be held, and Carol volunteered to call potential venues and caterers about their availability.
- Carol also volunteered to contact a guest speaker for the AGM.
- The board discussed the possibility of providing additional funding to the municipality's Economic Development Committee for its façade improvement program. Five businesses will receive up to \$1,000 in matching funds if they invest in improving their storefronts. The Chamber board said we could top up that amount by up to \$500 per business. Rob will take the proposal to the Committee at the end of the month and report back to the board.

Kevin provided the Treasurer's report. Nothing much new, other than the dues to the Ontario and Canadian Chambers of Commerce were paid. Report moved by Rob and seconded by Lois. Carried.

Membership update – we have 58 members signed up for another year, and 15 have yet to pay. Cheryl Lindsay volunteered to make calls to the last 15.

Website and marketing – Nella reported 1770 hits on the website over 30 days, and 138 likes on Facebook. Lois said we have 347 Twitter followers and that she always tags local radio stations and magazines when she tweets.

Rob reminded everyone about the Job Fair being held on March 23rd. Nella said the banner will need to be updated with new member names before then. Rob will pick up the banner at the Bookstore before the Job Fair.

Correspondence – no correspondence.

Other business: Nella asked if we wanted to have a regular monthly ad in the Spotlight newspaper. A discussion ensued, and a decision made that we should stick to our plan of advertising only when we have something to advertise.

Next meeting scheduled for April 11, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Durham library.

Motion to adjourn by Nella. Kevin seconded. Carried.