



Caledonia Regional Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2023

Directors: Suzanne Athanasiou, Joanne Dorr, Larry Fay, Ian Haynes, Chris Hibbs, Dan Lawrence, Gary Nelson, Ken Parr, Craig Peters, Ben Ponsen, Anne Unyi (ex officio)
Executive: Jessica Lymburner
Guests : Stacie Blakey, Devann Polap

1. **Call to Order:** Suzanne Athanasiou called the meeting to order at 8:01 am
2. **Conflict of Interest Declaration** – No conflicts of interest were declared.
3. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:** It was duly moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of March 3, 2023.

Jessica Lymburner shared the following updates

: CRCC members have been invited to the Hamilton Chamber Business After5, **Wednesday**, April 5, 2023

: The Mohawk design agency didn't have a high enough enrollment to continue its partnership with the CRCC. Jessica will contract out this service with the goal of new website within 4 weeks.

: Gladys Goobie is interested in volunteering with the Chamber. She has offered to help in the station Friday mornings to assist with administrative duties, cleaning up digital and physical files and providing on-site assistance at the Train Station.

: MPSS Student Devann Polap will be volunteering 40 hours and will use them to review and propose an updated Code of Conduct for volunteers and Directors of the Chamber, will look for additional grant opportunities and help with upcoming events.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. **Haldimand County Updates:** Dan Lawrence shared the following:
 - That the lights at McClung are still waiting for electricity.
 - Hagersville's councillor Natalie Stam is resigning and there will either be an appointment of her replacement or an interim election to fill her seat.
 - There are no updates on the Bridge replacement.
 - Renaming of the Barb Martindale Memorial ceremony will likely take place in the Fall of 2023.

He further requested that the Chamber officially advocate for and draft a letter to support the installation of traffic lights at Haldibrook Rd on Hwy #6.

2. Committee Reports

- a. Business Achievement Awards- Jessica Lymburner shared there are 95 confirmed attendees YTD.
- b. Edinburgh Cup – Consensus of the board was to defer this event until September.
- c. Canada Day- The next meeting is planned for March 21- Jessica proposed a change, that the committee meet at the park under the pavilion at 6:30 and do a walk-through as a group.
- d. Tourism – Ben Ponsen is interested in promoting summer student positions and posting the position on various job sites. He and Jessica will connect to review any historic information that can be found from last year's placement. Ben will also follow up to confirm with lead Tourism Pam Aylan-Parker to ensure she is still interested in updating the Chamber's outdoor signs.
- e. Oktoberfest – No updates
- f. Economic Development – No Updates
- g. Finance/Succession Planning – Suzanne Athanasiou recommended the Financial committee meet again after the Business Awards to review new members, and that the committee meet quarterly over the year.
- h. Caledonia Connected Networking- Chris Hibbs volunteered to review fee structure options for 2024 membership and propose recruitment strategies for membership, directors and volunteers.
- i. Special Projects- No updates
- j. Nominations- No Updates

3. **Grand Trunk Society:** Larry Fay had no updates

4. New Business:

Craig Peters shared that:

- The Lions are hosting Fish Frys next 4 Fridays
- On April 7th the BIA is hosting a Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt
- The Black Top Hop is being planned for June 30 2023.
- He will cut the section of grass that is privately owned and previously billed to the Chamber.

Stacie Blakey shared that the Community Support Centre AGM will be March 28th as they launch their capital campaign for renovations.

Ben Ponsen shared that he will be participating in the Good Friday Service at Fairgrounds on April 7th from 10 -11:15.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 am

NEXT MEETINGS

Canada Day Planning Session- March 21 2023
Business Awards March 29 2023
Board of Directors: April 6