



**Board of Directors Meeting  
March 22, 2018  
8:30 Augusta Business Centre**

*“Building bridges to better business in Augusta, Prescott and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal”*

Chairperson: Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler

Board Members Present – Lisa Temple, Bonnie Pidgeon Cougler, Tim MacKay, Rod Palmer, Andrea Derochie, Deb Coles, Blinda Campbell

*Board Members Absent- Gerry Hasiuk, Jeff Morris, Lynda Joanisse, Ben Quenneville, Dan Cook*

In Attendance – Sandra Lawn, Deron Johnston representing Prescott BIA, Councillor Mike Ostrander- representing the Town of Prescott, Amanda McNamara – representing RBC, Rod Wallace representing Grenville Community Futures Development

**Introductory Remarks:**

The meeting was brought to order at 8:32 am and the chair confirmed quorum.

**Introduction of Guest:** none

**Approval of March’s Agenda**

**Moved by Tim MacKay**

Move to approve March’s agenda

**Seconded by Blinda Campbell**

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of February’s Meeting Minutes**

**Moved by Lisa Temple**

Move to approve February’s Meeting Minutes

**Seconded by Andrea Derochie**

**Motion Carried**

**Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Tim MacKay has been doing some work around the Chamber boundary issue. There has been no official change in the boundaries of the Chamber since 1931 when the chamber was called the Prescott Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has changed their name a couple of times since then (Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce and South Grenville Chamber of Commerce). Tim has been collecting maps and will provide a brief description of the new boundaries. If this is approved he can go ahead with the name change. Tim reported that the name change hinges on representing the proper boundaries. Once the proper new boundaries

are determined and officially changed, making the name change should not be a problem. Tim will continue to work on this.

Deb reported that the original credit card has been cancelled and closed and she has set up with WIX her own personal credit card because that is basically the payment the credit card was used for.

### **President's Greetings & Report**

Bonnie reported that they were very lucky to get a free workshop from Launch Labs in conjunction with Grenville Community Futures Development that took place on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Red George. Non chamber members were also invited to participate in this workshop at a cost of \$25.00. Moving forward, Bonnie would like to see the Chamber offer more workshops to their members.

There is now a South Grenville Chamber of Commerce president's email through Joe Computer and Chamber business cards have been printed. The business card is generic.

### **BIA**

Sandra reported that they are continuing to work on their budget for 2018. Deron is updating a BIA membership list. They have also been working on a Business Recruitment Program. Sandra reported that at the BIA's AGM they had a presentation from two representatives from the Great Waterway around tourism.

Sandra recently had a meeting with the Eastern Ontario Training Board out of Cornwall that is working on a program for young people 30 and under to find a job in their field in this area. The program which is called Career Focus is designed for recent graduates who are struggling to find work placements. Rod Palmer commented that there is quite a financial incentive to employers to hire these graduates.

### **Grenville Community Futures Corporation**

Rod Wallace reported that their partnership with Launch Lab has been very beneficial. He estimates that they have meet with about 60 entrepreneurs in the Grenville area to talk about the challenges they face.

Through a program that was designed by the Federal Government to give Eastern Ontario a little boost, the Grenville Community Futures has given out approximately \$450,000 annually to Grenville County businesses. This has given small and large businesses a boost. This was a 5-year program and is now coming to an end at the end of this year.

### **Town of Prescott**

Mike Ostrander reported that in the last month the second floor at town hall has been determined to be unsafe due to an asbestos problem. The second floor has been closed totally and the business side of the town of Prescott has been moved up to the third floor.

They are in the process of choosing the citizen of the year and volunteer of the year. Submissions have been made and a committee will be selecting the winners in the near future.

Mike reported that the town has committed some money to further study the various aspects that are needed to put together the bicycle ferry (customs, location etc.). A joint meeting will be held with Ogdensburg Council in early April.

**Township of Augusta** – no report

**Township of Edwardsburg/Cardinal** – no report

**Treasurer's Report**

Deb reported that the Canadian Ontario Chamber fees have been paid. There have been quite a few membership fees collected. She reported that she has increased the petty cash amount to \$200.00.

**Moved by Tim MacKay**

Move to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented

**Seconded by Blinda Campbell**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler**

Move to increase the petty cash to \$200.00 for the secretary to use to run the office (ie. stamps, printer ribbons etc.)

**Seconded by Andrea Derochie**

**Motion Carried**

**Secretary's Report**

The Annual Charlie McFarlane Golf Tournament is a really important source of income for the Chamber. Bonnie reported that a committee should be set up to help organize this event. Blinda Campbell and Lisa Temple volunteered to be on the Golf Committee along with Joan Rupert-Barkley.

**South Grenville Chamber of Commerce 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Bonnie reported that the celebration is well on its way. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 24 at the Royal Canadian Legion on Henry Street in Prescott. The townships were contacted about donating \$500.00 each to the event. Businesses will get the opportunity to be a sponsor and advertise the night of the event. The Prescott Journal will be advertising the event and they will also put some old Chamber articles in their Wayback section of the paper. This will be a public event. There will also be a time capsule if anyone wants to put something in it. The Grenville County Historical Society has partnered with the South Grenville Chamber for this celebration. The Red George will be catering.

## **Membership**

**Moved by Tim MacKay**

**To approve Augusta Business Centre as a member**

**Seconded by Blinda Campbell**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by Andrea Derochie**

To approve Eterna Care Cremation as a member

**Seconded by Blinda Campbell**

**Motion Carried**

Bonnie indicated to the group that Coast FM Radio in Prescott would like to join the South Grenville Chamber; however they want to give the Chamber “In Kind” instead of the membership fee. They would sponsor the awards dinner as well as give us some “In Kind” ads. There was a short discussion with the group and it was decided that they would give the radio station “In Kind” for the first year. This will be a first time new member arrangement and then it will be reviewed again next year.

**Moved by Blinda Campbell**

Move to approve Vista Radio as a member with the following conditions. The first year free membership for in kind service approved by the board. This will be a first time new member arrangement that will offer them 1 free year membership.

**Seconded by Deb Coles**

**Motion Carried**

Andrea reported that the membership directory has been updated on the Website. The chamber website is through Wix. Andrea has been in contact with Sterling Grace about training. This training would be 2 to 4 hours and would provide her with training on how to do links, on-line applications as well as do other things that would enhance the website.

**Moved by Andrea Derochie**

To approve website training with Sterling Grace at a cost of approximately \$400.00

**Seconded by Deb Coles**

**Motion Carried**

## **HR Committee**

Since the secretary has a new job, the hours that she will be spending at the South Grenville Chamber office will be decreased to 8 hours a week on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 3:30.

**Moved by Rod Palmer**

To rewrite the secretary’s contract to reflect her availability which would require a change to the office hours being one day a week?

**Seconded by Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler**

**Motion Carried**

Bonnie reported the Brockville Chamber along with the Gananoque Chamber and the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce will collaborate together to organize an All Candidates Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Brockville.

**The next meeting of the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce will take place at the South Grenville Food Bank on Henry Street in Prescott on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 8:30.**

**Moved by Andrea Derochie**

To adjourn the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting on March 22, 2018

Meeting adjourned

10:07 am