



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

**CSE Consulting – 8:00 a.m.**

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

Chairperson: President Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler

Board Members Present: Andrea Derochie, Deb Coles, Tim MacKay, Rod Palmer, Lisa Temple, Ben Quenneville

Board Members Regrets: Lynda Joanisse, Blinda Campbell

Board Members Absent: Joe Martelle

In Attendance: Chris Wiltshire and Lorelee Carruthers from River’s Edge, Century 21

**Welcome and Call to Order** – President Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler

Bonnie called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and confirmed that there was a quorum.

She reviewed the upcoming Chamber activities for the rest of the year. This includes Board of Director’s meetings as well as the Federal Election All Candidates Debate, The Annual Awards Banquet and the Christmas Dinner.

**Introduction of Guests:**

Chris Wiltshire and Lorelee Carruthers from River’s Edge, Century 21 were in attendance.

**Approval of September’s Agenda**

**Moved by Tim MacKay**

**To Approve September’s Agenda**

**Seconded by Rod Palmer**

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of June’s Minutes**

**Moved by Ben Quenneville**

**To Approve June’s Meeting Minutes**

**Seconded by Tim Mackay**

**Motion Carried**

**President’s Greetings & Report** – President Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler

Bonnie welcomed everyone to the Chamber meeting and said the Chamber has had an incredible year so far. Lots of hard work from the directors as well as townships.



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**Liaison Highlight Reports (5 minutes each)**

- **BIA**

Ben reported that he attended a BIA meeting on September 10. At this meeting they discussed initiatives. Some of these initiatives included tourism, beautification and signage.

The BIA will be hiring a coordinator until the end of the year to help with upcoming events as well as administrative work. The BIA will be looking for volunteers to help with the Zombie Walk which will take place on October 19.

- **GCFDC**

Darren Gallacher reported that they have had a busy summer. He highlighted their Rural Initiative Program which is geared towards businesses that are upscaling or who are looking for creative ways to grow their business. This is a government granted program.

- **Town of Prescott**

Gauri reported that the splash pad will be functional in the spring of 2020. Work on the former Daniel’s lot is still progressing. They are presently dealing with permit issues and Ministry of Environment requests. The work on Henry Street will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Work on the downtown lights is completed. There are a few more logistics that need to be figured out before the ferry project is completed.

- **Augusta Township**

Jeff Shaver sent the following report:

All invited to Open House at the new Fire Station 1 in Maitland at 1:00 pm on Sunday, October 6.

The deadline for the Augusta Township Business of the Year Award Nominations and the Augusta Township Trail Blazer Award Nominations is October 11.

The Aquaworld public meeting will be held on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at the MERC Hall in Maitland at 10:00 am.

- **Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal – no report**



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**Treasurer’s Report** – Deborah Coles

Deb reported that all the money is in from the golf tournament. The cheque presentation to Jumpstart from this event will take place at the Annual Awards Banquet.

**Moved by Deb Coles**

To accept Treasurer’s report as presented

**Seconded by Rod Palmer**

**Motion Carried**

**Secretary’s Report:**

Joan reported that the Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Tuesday, October 29 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Cardinal. Nominations are still being accepted for the awards. The theme this year is Today’s Youth, Tomorrow’s Business Leaders. Tickets are \$40.00 and the dinner will be a turkey buffet.

**Committee Reports:**

**1. Membership**

Andrea reported that there are approximately 90 chamber members. Followups are still being made on members who have not yet paid their membership fee. A software program called Chamber Master which is software that is geared towards Chambers has been purchased. Some of the features this program offers is signups and payments on-line, event registration and annual invoicing. The goal is to have the website complete with all the features up and running in the early part of 2020. Work is still being done on a revised Chamber of Commerce welcome package that will also include information from the Town of Prescott as well as Edwardsburgh and Augusta Townships.

**2. HR Committee**

A chart showing the members of the HR Committee, the finance committee and the marketing and communication committee was distributed.

**3. Marketing and Communication**

Ben reported that the golf tournament was a huge success. This year they had a barbeque and a band. Feedback was good. There were approximately 90 golfers. Fifteen people attended the dinner after the tournament.

The Chamber wants to start doing more Business After 5 events. Another initiative they are looking at is using Coast FM to spotlight businesses in the area.

The Chamber of Commerce Christmas Dinner this year will be held at the Red George on Friday, December 13 at noon.



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**General Business**

Deb attended the Bluegrass Festival in Spencerville. The South Grenville Chamber of Commerce was one of the sponsors.

The HR Committee has revamped the Request for funding form. Moving forward organizations that ask for funding will have to go through a process.

Rod talked about two programs CSE Consulting is running. The first one that starts September 23 is 4-days per week for 3 weeks and is called Soft Skills Solutions. This is being sponsored by Ontario Works.

The second program is Pathways to Production. For this program, CSE Consulting will be collaborating with Keyes in Gananoque, Employment and Education Centre and St. Lawrence College as well as manufacturing employers. It will be preparing people for life in manufacturing (ie. shift work, repetitive work, standing long hours etc). This program will start October 28.

The All Candidates Debate for the Federal Election is taking place on Thursday, September 26 at the Brockville Art Centre. The Brockville Chamber of Commerce as well as our Chamber are collaborating on this event.

**Moved by Gauri Shankar**

To adjourn the meeting of September 11, 2019

**Seconded by Andrea Derochie**

**Motion Carried**

Meeting adjourned

8:40 a.m.