

Harrow & Colchester South Chamber of Commerce

Annual General Meeting – Minutes

December 18th, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. Drifters Inn, Harrow

Attendees: Murdo McLean, Jill Marontate, Corrie Bramhall, Jennifer Ring, Tim Smeltzer, Peter Timmins, Connie Vollans

Guests: Marilyn McLean, Bill Baker, Bryan Meyer, David Campbell, Craig Miller, Heather Marentette, Dr. Michael F. Janisse, Brian Gray

Reports/Business:

Murdo called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Everyone introduced themselves

Jill Marontate approve agenda, seconded by Corrie Bramhall

Tim Smeltzer moved to approve minutes of 2012 annual meeting, seconded by Peter Timmins

Tim Smeltzer moved to approve Financial Statement, seconded by Jill Marontate

Discussion around annual audit of the books, Murdo McLean feels that a review would be appropriate. Guest Bryan Meyer recommends a meeting with Craig Miller from BDO with a committee from the membership.

Meeting was interrupted for dinner

Murdo thanked Corrie Bramhall for all the work she did for the website, which was a huge undertaking. While it was a major expense for 2013, it will be maintained by the Chamber in the future saving annual fees. Discussion around an old Harrow website lead, to Jill M. volunteering to speak with Henry Blunneredder about dismantling his site.

Marilyn McLean discussed the Christmas Decorating Contest with winners – Harrow News 1st for window display, 2nd Dr. Micheal Janisse, 1st Bell House for interior and Harrow Day Care 2nd - this was well recieved with several businesses participating. Thank you to Marilyn & Corrie for judging. New Business: Tim Smeltzer made a motion to pay bills from Gingers & the Harrow News seconded by Jill Marontate

President's Report:

- The new website www.visitharrow.ca has been a major part of our budget in 2013. Corrie, Tim & Marilyn have worked many hours with Web Planet
- The Chamber of Commerce has again supported 2 bursaries for Harrow High Students who further their education, we also contributed to the Mental Wellness initiative at Harrow High. Explore the Shore on Cty Rd 50 was also supported, for the Shoreline Businesses.
- The new street banners in Harrow & Col. Have received very positive comments. We are having trouble keeping them on the poles and this will be addressed in the new year.
- The decorative street lights are an ongoing issue. They are now removed from poles, and are being evaluated by someone familiar with this type of display, with hopes of being back in place by March or April.
- Corrie & Marilyn suggested a Chamber sponsored Christmas decorating contest for local businesses.
- Our lawyer David Campbell, was successful in getting our Harrow & Colchester Chamber of Commerce Incorporated in 2013. This took a lot of diligence and patience on the part of David, thank you very much.
- Connie Vollans from the Credit Union came on as Director to replace Jordan Moat in 2013, & took on the Secretary position when Jason & Pircilla Whitson resigned due to family commitments. Thank you Connie.

- A new group of people representing the southern communities of Essex County – Amherstburg, Harrow, Colchester, Kingsville & Leamington businesses, organizations is being formed to work together to strengthen this area.
- Last but not least we are welcoming a Tim Hortons to the town in early 2014. This will add many more jobs to the area for students and part time workers.

I would like to thank the Chamber executive and directors for your support during 2013. Our Essex council representative Bill Baker also brings a great deal of information and perspective to this organization.

Election of Directors and Executive for 2014 – (Bryan Meyer to run election)

Tim Smeltzer approve existing Executives, second Corrie Bramhall

President – Murdo McLean – stand Tim Smeltzer, second – Jill Marontate

Vice President – Jill Marontate – stand Murdo McLean, second – Tim Smeltzer

Directors:

Conine Vollans

Peter Timmins

Tim Smeltzer

Corrie Bramhall

Jennifer Ring

Derek Didone

Bill Baker

Dr. Michael Jannisse

Craig Miller

Close nominations – Tim Smeltzer, second – Corrie Bramhall

Discussion during the presidents address around banners, new businesses to town:

Sherry Bondy from Town Council mentioned that banner and light issues and costs could be discussed and put into the budget for 2014

Also, discussed why existing businesses are not given the same “deals” as new businesses coming into the area – EnerQuest, Tim Hortons – ie: 10 year tax break – this would help business retention.

Adjoin : Peter Timmins, second Jennifer Ring