

**MARKDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Sidekicks Café – May 21, 2009 – 7 p.m.
MINUTES**

WELCOME & DINNER 6 p.m. onward (dinner – by donation - \$60 collected for Cops for Cancer)

ATTENDING: Doug Crawford, Don Kopplin, Charmaine Peever, JD Daly, Janie Badgeroes, Kathy Gamblen, Rick Gamblen, Patti Shaw, Kate Russell, Lynn Silverton

REGRETS: Shelley LaPointe

GUESTS: Dave Barrett, SEDC; Connie Viljokainen

CALL TO ORDER: 7 p.m.

GUEST DELIGATION: 6:30 p.m. Dave Barrett, SEDC re: Community Adjustment Fund

Dave Barrett, Project Manager for the Saugeen Economic Development Corporation appeared before the committee to outline a new federal grant program – Community Adjustment Fund – which offers funds to non-profits and municipalities etc. for job creation project. Dave gave an overview of the funding program – but did not discuss specific projects. He also announced further funding programs are forthcoming, but have yet to be officially announced. He suggested other grant funds might be available through RED and other projects. The CAF fund is applicable to “shovel ready” projects and must be able to start immediately. Dave is compiling regional employment stats and is available to offer advice and assistance with the grant application. The committee thanked Dave for the information. He then departed the meeting.

Discussion followed amongst the committee members on what project would be best for this application. Kate had previously reviewed the funding guidelines, so was able to answer some questions regarding the fund. It was determined the best project would be to renovate the Olde Firehall into a economic development showcase. We could also seek to do engineering and architectural studies on the truck bay halls.

ACTION: Kate to start working on getting the application together by the deadline of June 12. Committee members Doug Crawford, Charmaine Peever, Wayne Fitzgerald, Don Kopplin will meet with Kate to review the application on May 29th.

APPROVAL of previous minutes – April 16, 2009. Previous minutes were reviewed. No amendments were made.

MOTION: Moved by Kathy Gamblen, seconded by Charmaine Peever that the minutes of the April 16, 2009 minutes be accepted as presented. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

- *Golf Tournament* – committee meeting re: tournament at Markdale Golf Sept. 13, 2009 – sponsors are being collected. The Markdale Country Club has been booked for the event. Expecting about 40 people. We are looking at having a \$10,000 hole in one hole. JD will talk to the food ladies at the club. Next meeting to discuss the tournament is scheduled for May 27 at 7 p.m. for the committee.
- *Coordinator position* – A meeting was held with Kate to discuss her deal for continuing to coordinate the Chamber. As there are not funds for full salary, Kate will work 20 hours a week in the office, 8 hours paid at \$10 an hour, 12 hours for the Markdale Fall Fair. These hours will apply to health benefits as previously outlined for Kate and her partner Ron. There is no set schedule of when Kate will work, but mostly will be Thursdays and Fridays and evening meetings. No weekends unless there is an event. She will supervise the summer student for the Chamber at Fall Fair. The Fair will have “headquarters” in the Olde Firehall this summer as well.

MOTION: Moved by Don Kopplin, seconded by Wayne Fitzgerald that the employment deal offered to Chamber coordinator Kate Russell be approved. Carried.

- *Cruise Night* – committee met; sponsors gained: CarQuest; Allan’s Garage; Boyd’s; Coltons – all at \$200 each; Neverest; Foodland; Sidekicks; Ice River Springs; Chatsworth Motors; D&D Car Sales are also sponsoring. Road closure is approved. Queries being forwarded to Wayne. Hilde Worthington had suggested some Chamber “swag”

flashlights for the Cruise Night as hand-outs in the gift bags – organizing committee is getting a firm quote, it will go to the committee for approval. Lynn said she would get bottled water from Ice River Springs. Porta potties have been rented and a flyer is pending for distribution at car shows. Items are being collected for door prizes and gift bags. Three local non-profit groups are going to be offering food at the event.

ACTION: Follow-up on items for door prizes and gift bags. Distribute flyers.

- *Summer Student* – application approved – contract on hand for signature – ad needed. No ad required, we will post with local YMCA and Summer Jobs programs and post a flyer at local libraries.

ACTION: Post flyers – hire student – file documents with the CSJ Program Coordinator.

- *Winter Snow Removal* – Doug Crawford is attending the May 27th Roads Committee meeting to discuss the need for snow banks downtown to be removed. Hope is that we will be able to determine a height that will trigger snow removal rather than continued banking. Lynn Silverton mentioned the road crews try to keep them down, but municipal equipment was suffering “burn out” during the past heavy snow seasons.

ACTION: Doug to meet with roads committee to try to come up with a minimum standard and time limit for response to request to remove snow build up.

- *50/50 draw* – update – tickets available for sale, summer student has distributed to downtown store locations. Any individuals want some to sell?

ACTION: Sell tickets.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Doug Crawford

- *Development committee* – update – Stan Baker spoke at the previous meeting of the Chamber board. Local businessman Alan Thompson may also come onto a development committee. There is a rumour afoot that the Terra building may be torn down. We need to establish this committee to keep on top of such developments in the village and promote business, manufacturing and retail opportunities in Markdale.
- *Flesherton/Markdale* – Flesherton Chamber invited Markdale Chamber board members to attend dinner meeting at Donabies on June 10, 2009. Doug Crawford, Kathy Gamblen, Wayne Fitzgerald, Don Kopplin and Charmaine Peever will attend. All others are welcome, let Kathy know if you plan to attend.

ACTION: Report on meeting to next board meeting.

- *Delegation to Council* – several community members have expressed an interest in going before municipal council to express concerns over village issues. Chamber members are encouraged to attend and meeting in the lobby prior to this to coordinate grievance expressions. Doug Crawford has been approached on many occasions by disgruntled residents who want to express their concerns to council.

ACTION: Email membership to attend – board members to attend.

- *New Fire Chief* – There is now a new Fire Chief in Grey Highlands, replacing the retiring Dave Kell of the Flesherton department and Ken MacArthur of the Markdale station. There was discussion of concern over the way previous Markdale fire chief employment was terminated without opportunity to continue on to complete 40 years of service. He served for 39 years and would now have to re-apply to continue in this community service. The new Fire Chief, Robert Meads has come into the department and we want to welcome him. The Flesherton & Markdale departments will be officially amalgamated into on Grey Highlands Fire Service as of July 1, 2009.

ACTION: Kate will draft a letter to Ken thanking him for his many years of service and offering support to him, should he be able to continue in some capacity with the department. The Chamber will also nominate him for Citizen of the Year for 2009. We will also write a letter of welcome to new Fire Chief Bob Meads.

Chamber municipal liaison Councillor Lynn Silverton departed the meeting at this time.

- *Municipality requested meeting* re: F.T. Hill bequest to the Village of Markdale. The Chamber has been seeking this bequest as it feels it is best positioned to fulfill the requirements of the bequest. Municipality is also seeking the funds and had requested a meeting with President Crawford about this issue. Discussion followed. Past president Wayne Fitzgerald outlined the previous submission to the court (2006) and suggested we will need to update this and present our case for being the best organization for fulfill the bequest requirements – being to further industry in Markdale only. The Chamber feels the municipality has not got the best interests of Markdale in mind, as there is more of an amalgamated area to concern them. Chamber will retain a lawyer to persue these funds. A court date was set in June to hear arguments. Discussion followed on issues the municipality has not addressed, including the exclusion of public and business interests on the municipal Economic Development & Tourism Committee (now a committee of the whole council), the discontinuation of a municipally-funded business directory (now to be done by Chambers); the money from the sale of the village’s Hydro was spent on sewage upgrades, not social or economic boosts and previously agreed with the municipality etc. It was decided unanimously that the Chamber does not support these funds going to the municipality and further that board members are not to speak to the municipality without other board members present as witnesses as the matter is now before the courts. President was directed not to meet alone with the municipality, and to get any offer or suggestions they put forward in writing.

MOTION: Move by Charmaine Peever, seconded by Rick Gamblen that any correspondence with the town on the FT Hill Bequest be in writing. As time is short we need to prepare our own case for the court date of June 19. Chamber board directs the president not to meet with the municipal CAO regarding this matter. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Manager

- *Membership update* – membership is at 62 members as of this date. Membership list was passed to Kathy Gamblen for follow-up with previous members who have not paid for the current year and for comparison to insurance list.
- *Member Survey* – Kathy and Janie met to come up with a draft retailers survey. They will follow-up with this. Copies of previous surveys will be shared with Kathy and Janie.

PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Wayne Fitzgerald

- *Update on development status* – Primary Care Facility – offer was made for the Blue Water District School building. It was rejected. Center Grey Hospital Services Foundation has now decided to seek a public fundraising solution to the primary care facility – so it is no longer a Chamber initiative.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Don Kopplin

- Presentation of latest financial statement. Don Kopplin outlined current financial position of the Chamber.

MOTION: Moved by Kathy Gamblen, seconded by Janie Badgerow that the treasurer’s report be received as presented. Carried.

- Payables – see attached payables report at end of minutes.

MOTION: Moved by JD Daly, seconded by Patti Shaw to approve the payables as presented. Carried.

COORDINATOR’S REPORT:

- Office closed for month of April and to May long weekend; open Thurs. Friday manned; Sat. unmanned.
- Attended Grey Bruce RTMP brochure swap in Tobermory on May 6 – expensed to petty cash.
- Purchased postcards from Telfer Wegg for information booth – expensed to petty cash.
- Attended Ministry of Tourism consultation on Sorbara Report May 14 – mileage expense to petty cash.
- Petty Cash report – submit to treasurer – needs to be replenished.

ACTION: Replenish petty cash.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Trillium Foundation re: confirmation of closing of file on past grant - file
- Phyllis Gardon – re: local marketing request – to who – coordinator to follow-up again.
- County of Grey – return of deposit on Santa parade – file.
- Chamber Insurance Corp. – notice of AGM – passed to Rick & Kathy Gamblen.
- Grey Highlands re: memorial bench at Parkette & maintenance fees in fund There is now a memorial park fund – needs to be clarified with the municipality. George Lorenz will clean and water the parkette.

ACTION: Follow-up with municipality on memorial park fund.

- Canada Ontario Business Service Centre – website link request
- SEDC re: Balloon bouquets to new business – Sapori/Field & Range

ACTION: Contact SEDC to ensure these businesses received balloon bouquets.

- Bruce Trail Beaver Valley Club re: trail hike kits
- Canadian Rock Signs – commemorative benches – file
- CAA – affinity program – passed to Gamblens for review.

ACTION: review report on CAA affinity program.

- Blackburn Radio – returned overpayment
- BMO bank statement

OTHER VARIOUS TO FILE: Insurance commission: Apr. 559.58; May: 550.59; OCC advocacy and upcoming events; Service Canada re: worksharing; Bell Canada toll-free report;

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Adjustment Fund – application deadline June 12 – application pending.

Citizenship Award – Beavercrest Graduation – June 23rd, 2009 – Doug will attend.

Chamber sharing office/student with Markdale Ag Society – MAS will cover own supplies.

Chamber sponsorship of Markdale Fall Fair Business Window competition - \$50 – approved – see payables.

Chamber ad in regional tourism guide to distribute with Sun Times – Crusie Night ad/golf tourney, confirmed and booked.

Summer student support – file.

Beautification – 12 hanging baskets have been ordered for downtown lamp posts. \$500 additional funds were required to purchase the baskets and \$500 to rent/purchase pump system for watering plants.

MOTION: Moved by Charmaine Peever, seconded by Rick Gamblen to approve the funds necessary (up to \$500) to purchase the pump system for watering plants. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Patti Shaw, seconded by Charmaine Peever at 9 p.m. Carried.

PAYABLES: May 2009

Prepaid:

Hydro One \$214.94

NOTE: Bell Canada refunds of \$90.79 (bus. Line) & \$61.24 (toll free line) have been received/deposited.

Subtotal: \$214.94

To be paid:

Dragonfly Design – renew Scoopit.ca \$42.00

Old Autos – Cruise Night ads \$175.56

Telizon – new phone service (2 bills) \$186.21

Union Gas – utilities (2 bills) \$189.31

Grey Highlands – water utility \$87.10

Leasons – office supply (statement) \$85.10

The Sun Times – outlook & volunteer ads \$304.50

Flowers to Sapori Di Casa (reimburse JD) \$16.95

Subtotal: \$1086.73

Markdale Agricultural Society – sponsor bus. Window \$50.00

Subtotal \$50.00

Total

\$1136.73