

Minutes of the Madoc & District Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Madoc Public Library and Cultural Centre

1. Call to order by Robin Carscadden, Vice Chair
2. Introductions: Robin Carscadden, Vice Chair
Jim Bakker, Coordinator
Judy Smith, Treasurer
Ellen Wilson, Secretary
Terry Richardson
Debbie Richardson
April Rodgers
Jim Murray
Carol Murray
Regrets from Rob Price, Cliff Andrews, Tom Deline, Tom Simpson
3. Approval of Agenda: Moved by Ellen Wilson and seconded by Jim Bakker that the agenda be approved. Carried.
4. Minutes of the October 18th, 2011 meeting. Moved by Ellen Wilson and seconded by Judy Smith that the minutes be approved. Carried.
5. Business arising from minutes. None.
6. Correspondence:
 - i. Letter from Ontario Chamber of Commerce
 - ii. Letter to Centre Hastings Council concern confusion of roles between Chamber and Eco. Dev't Committee.
 - iii. CIP Minutes.
 - iv. Request from Brian Bulgar (our insurance provider) to put ICON on Chambers web page.
 - v. E-mail from Stonepath concerning 5-10K run, May 29th, 2012
7. Business arising from correspondence:
 - i. After a brief discussion, it was decided we would maintain our membership in the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and not transfer it to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.
 - ii. A letter was sent to council Nov. 1st. that outlined the position of the Chamber and how we complemented and supported the initiatives of the Economic Development Committee. Jim Bakker is to forward this letter to the Chamber members.
 - iii. THE CIP Minutes are available on the Centre Hastings web site.
(http://www.centrehastings.com/economic_development.htm)
 - iv. The Chamber will put the insurance ICON on our Chamber page that is located in the Centre Hastings web site.
 - v. Jim Bakker will forward the Stonepath e-mail to our members.

8. Financial report: \$7535.21 in the bank.
9. Old Business.
 - i. RTO Region 11 (OHTO) Updates – Jim Bakker: The Chamber should look at finding suitable locations for video shoots in Centre Hastings as well as encouraging tourist businesses to join OHTO at no cost. There are many advantages to joining and anyone who has events coming up should register so that these may be added to Ohto’s event calendar. For more information go to ohto.ca.
 - ii. ComfortCountry update: ComfortCountry is still awaiting the announcement of funding through CFDC Bancroft. ComfortCountry is the DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) for central Hastings and is the link between central Hastings and the Provincial Ministry of Tourism and its new tourism initiatives. The video shoots will be continued until the end of 2011, as tourism is the central theme for economic development in Ontario.
 - iii. Workshops: An extra meeting dealing with service excellence will be added to the Leadership series on Dec. 12th. Queens Law School is holding an information night on Wed., Nov 23rd. They provide pro bono services for small business start-ups and charitable groups. The Municipality of Tweed is sponsoring an event about finding grants and funding sources for small businesses and non-profit groups. Elaine Kapusta will represent ComfortCountry at this event.
 - iv. Madoc Canadian Heritage Music and Arts Festival 2012 (Drum Nation Festival). – A video commissioned for Drum Nation is now available on their web site. (<http://drumnationfestival.com/video.html>). The upcoming festival will include a learning day on Friday, September 7th, where the local schools will be encouraged to participate. The funding request has been forwarded to Celebrate Ontario for consideration.
 - v. Santa Claus Parade: Saturday November 26th. 7:00 p.m. A revised “to-do” list was circulated and everything is progressing. Cliff and Mary Andrews are decorating the Market Square in preparation for Santa’s visits with the kids.
 - vi. Community Improvement Plan: The November 10th meeting was poorly attended so the deadline for submissions on boundary changes has been extended to December 15th.
10. New Business.
 - i. Thursday Morning Market: The group that organized this event has disbanded so no Thursday market will occur.
 - ii. Update from Council: The Municipality will now accept debit and credit card payments for property taxes. Because the Council is a member of the Chamber, their acceptance fees should be at a lower rate. Christmas lights will be up in time for the parade and the Christmas tree (with the help of Madoc Public School) will be up and decorated as well. There is an upcoming meeting between the municipalities and Ministry of Transport concerning the new MacDonald’s at 7 & 62. The Chamber has written the letter

requesting consideration for continuing financial support in the upcoming budget deliberations. The Chamber would like to follow-up on changes to the local by-law that limits volunteers to those residing in Centre Hastings. We have had many great volunteers that do not live in the community, but nevertheless, are very eager to help in Centre Hastings community projects.

- iii. Arts Route – This is a project of the Premiere Ranked Tourism group of Hastings County. It will recruit artists who operate studio businesses or galleries and incorporate them into a brochure with maps etc to promote their businesses. Because the Madoc Public Library operates as a gallery, it has been suggested that the Chamber pay the annual fee of \$200.00 on behalf of the Library to promote it as a destination. Moved by Judy Smith and seconded by Jim Murray that the Chamber sponsor the Library for one year. Carried.
- iv. Membership enforcement. There is concern that members who are far behind in their dues are still deriving monetary benefits that they are not entitled to. Jim Bakker and Judy Smith will look into the problem.
- v. Planning for 2010. Planning was discussed but until we have a commitment from the municipal council concerning their grant to us, nothing firm can be established. We have 81 paid members to date and annual fees for 2012 will be \$50.00.

11. Next Meeting Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 7:30. p.m. at the Madoc Public Library and Cultural Centre, lower level.

12. Meeting Adjourned.