

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 21, 2010**

President Brent Laton called the meeting to order at noon at O'Heaphy's Irish Pub. Present were Vice-President Jennifer Wyman, Directors Mike Baril, Ray Young, Bill Pakeman, Heather Lawless, Jim French, Pat Sayeau, Beth Morris, Jessie De Vries, Roger Rhodes, Bonnie Gommert, members Larry Dishaw, Don Rivoire and Don Farnsworth. Minutes recorded by secretary/treasurer Debbie lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** No report.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved on motion by Mike Baril and seconded by Roger Rhodes. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.
3. **REVIEW FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** Brent Laton noted under membership the minutes stated the Chamber use \$400.00 from its Groups Insurance revenues to create a membership kit to promote membership but it should be noted these are two separate items.
4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for March 17, 2010 were approved on motion by Ray Young and seconded by Pat Sayeau. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Brent Laton reported he attended the United Counties L/G Economic Development Panel Series on Small Business/BIAs/Chambers and found it very informative and noted Brockville's C of C Past President spoke on how they rejuvenated their Chamber. The next panel series will be held on April 23, 2010 on Transportation/Logistics.

Ray Young felt the Chamber needs to inform members on what it does and what it has to offer and suggested representatives from our Chamber speak to area municipalities and attend their meetings to help promote Economic Development. Also we do need to revise our bylaws and create a membership kit.
6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Jen Wyman thanked all those who volunteered and helped out at the golf course and Annual Dinner.
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for period ending March 31, 2010 was presented by treasurer Debbie Lawless. The report was accepted on motion by Jim French and seconded by Beth Morris. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried. Copy enclosed.
8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** No report.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence for April 2010 was distributed to all.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **FINANCE:** No report.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Jen Wyman reported she is planning an After 5 networking event for May with the Food Bank.

Also volunteers are needed for the golf committee. Volunteering were Don Rivoire, Don Farnsworth and Bonnie Gommert. Anyone who can help out please contact jen@thehipjoint.ca. The date booked for the tournament is September 15, 2010.

Beth Morris suggested holding a breakfast meeting with a guest speaker.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** No report.

11. LIAISON REPORTS:

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported the budget has been passed and some projects underway include redoing the gas tanks at the marina, upgrading the town's pool and pool building, sewer line work and also Council will be meeting with a representative from Ontario Realty regarding the former OPP station.

2. **AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP:** Bill Pakeman reported the budget has almost been finalized, the Official Plan work is ongoing, a new roof and new siding has been installed on the Maynard Recreation Centre, a new roof will be installed on the Roebuck Hall including a new canteen with water and electricity, road construction will be commencing on the Second Concession and Skakum Road in mid May, ball and soccer is underway and tennis memberships are now available.

The Township's Trade Show will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at the Maynard Public School. Call 925-4231 for more information.

3. **EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL TOWNSHIP:** Mayor Larry Dishaw reported Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal and Elizabethtown-Kitley townships all met last week to share information on Economic Development.

RFP's for work regarding landfill issues and alternatives are out and lots of interest has been shown regarding the greenhouse complex with plans for SGDHS and Algonquin College students to work together at the complex.

The United Counties of L/G social housing request for Prescott to waive demolition and building permit fees for redevelopment of two buildings on Churchill Road in Prescott and replace with two-unit duplexes was denied.

4. GCFDC: Heather Lawless reported they lent out \$1.8 million in loans from March 2009 to March 2010 and the lending limit is now \$250,000 until March 31, 2011.

Also new online loan applications are now available and the Eastern Ontario Investment Pool business loans are up to \$500,000 and no cost consultations and referrals are available. For more information contact Mike O'Keefe at 925-4275, ext. 22.

The SEB (Self Employment Benefit) program has resumed with the eligibility criteria being modified. The next 8 week Business Plan Development workshop starts in June. Contact Cathy Gilmer at 925-4275, ext. 25 for more information or go to www.grenvillecfdc.com.

They are now accepting applications for the 2010 EODP (Eastern Ontario Development Program). First deadline is May 17, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. and a new online loan application is now available. Contact Cathy Gilmer for more information.

The corporation is seeking a Youth Intern for Business and Program Development. Go to www.grenvillecfdc.com for more info.

GCFDC is celebrating 20 years of service to Grenville County this year.

5. **BIA:** Ray Young thanked everyone for their support to the BIA and a new executive is now in place.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** Beth Morris reminded everyone they are holding their Open House tomorrow at their new location in Johnstown from 3-7 p.m. and all are welcome. Beth also noted they have merged with the VOICE newspaper in Brockville, a free weekly newspaper.

Bonnie Gommert reported the Food For all Food Bank will be holding a roast beef dinner and live auction on May 8, 2010 at St. Mark Parish Centre in Prescott to support the local food bank. Call Bonnie at 925-2444 for more information.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** No report.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010** at **O'HEAPHY'S IRISH PUB**, (101 King Street, Prescott, 925-0006) commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome"

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. on motion by Mike Baril and seconded by Jessie De Vries. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.