

North Dundas Chamber of Commerce
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Old Town Hall, Winchester

Rachel introduced herself to the group in attendance (members and non-members).

The executive previously approved the January minutes prior to the AGM.

Rachel gave an overview of the last year – what the Chamber contributed, retirement of some executive members, introduction of new executive members, projects the executive has been working on/discussing etc. Rachel asked if anyone wished to join the executive – no one volunteered.

Rachel echoed the opinion of some members that the by-laws are outdated and could use an update. By-law changes must be approved at the AGM, but with transitioning to a new President this year, there wasn't time to have these proposed changes reviewed and enacted. Decided that forming a sub-committee to address the required by-law changes for the 2018 AGM would be the best route.

Due to transitions in the Treasurer position, the financial statement was only current to November 2016.

Rachel advised those in attendance that the Chamber was looking to make updates to the website, and would be looking for a web designer to help.

Annette Angus suggested that the Chamber hire an assistant for the administrative tasks such as sending email updates to the members, organizing meetings, receiving yearly payments, sending receipts, help to promote the Chamber in the community. There was some discussion on this topic – issues including qualifications, the Chamber's ability to pay, employee vs contract work, etc.

The topic of a possible tradeshow was brought up. Although some members were not interested, most of those in attendance expressed interest in attending a tradeshow. Some members immediately volunteered to help get the tradeshow idea off the ground.

It was suggested that perhaps a member survey would help direct the executive on what the members wanted from their membership with the Chamber.

The 'Chamber Bucks' concept was reviewed – it is a way for the Chamber to financially support local events, while ensuring that the money is spent in North Dundas at a member's business. Some discussion was had on ways to update the program.

Someone mentioned the benefits that members could receive if the Chamber was part of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which costs \$10 per year per member. This would reduce the funds going to the ND Chamber of Commerce from \$75.00 to \$65.00 per member per year. No consensus was reached as to whether it would be worth it.

Eric Duncan explained some of the business improvement and signage grants through the Township of North Dundas. If anyone is looking to do work to their business interior or exterior – contact the Township first. He also spoke about some things happening in the community for Canada 150.

Rachel moved to end the meeting, Samantha seconded.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

A brief overview of the past year's chamber activities and a look to the future

To Our Members

The year in review

2016 started out with some big changes on the board of directors as Owen Shortt stepped down as president after serving over 10 years in that role. With the position needing to be filled, I reluctantly stepped in to attempt to fit in those big empty shoes. To say the least, it is a position I feel horribly underqualified to fill, but I will continue to do my best to grow and develop in this role.

The new year also brought a few other new faces to the board of directors; Nelson Zandbergen as Vice President, Samantha Berry as Secretary, and Lisa Williams as Director. As new directors, we received welcomed guidance from the seasoned board members returning; Owen Shortt, Ed Puddephatt, Sandy Puddephatt, and John VanBruinessen.

The end of the year held even more changes as Sandy Puddephatt retired as treasurer as well as Ed Puddephatt and John VanBruinessen stepped down from their roles as directors. We welcomed Shawn Brownlee to the board to fill the treasurer position in December and have yet to fill the other two vacancies. If you are interested in participating on the board of directors, volunteers are certainly appreciated!

Chamber Involvement

In an effort to reach out to more businesses in the community, we initiated Chamber Mixer Meetings in September. These meetings are held every other month (alternating with our chamber general meetings). The concept is to provide a welcoming and friendly atmosphere where businesses can meet and network. It also provides the opportunity to highlight local businesses through the business hosts. The first mixer kicked off at the Maple Ridge Centre in September and the November mixer was hosted by the Town Vintner at their brand new location. We hope to continue to grow and expand these mixers throughout the region this upcoming year. If you are interested in hosting a mixer at your location or having your business featured, please let us know!

The chamber contributed financially to several causes/events in 2016. Starting with a \$2000 donation to the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce to assist their businesses after the devastating fire. We also participated as a financial sponsor for the Township's Bridges to Better Business Breakfast meeting as well as the Mayor's breakfast. We plan to continue working with our wonderful township to bring more quality events such as these to the region and our members.

We now have a Facebook group for the North Dundas Chamber of Commerce. While it is still very much in its infancy, we do hope to continue to grow our outreach through social media outlets. The Chamber website will be undergoing a facelift in the very near future. We are currently collecting bids for the web redesign. If you or someone you know may be interested in the contract, please contact us.

In an effort to help build even more value for our members, last year we placed an ad in the fall 2016 township recreation guide on behalf of all our members. We anticipate doing the same thing again this fall. We welcome any feedback in regards to this and any additional suggestions for advertising and promotion for our members. We do hope you'll take the time to fill out the attached survey and return it at your earliest convenience. We greatly value your input and look forward to serving you even better in 2017!

Sincerely,

Rachel Potvin
President
North Dundas Chamber of Commerce