

# Springhill & Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes

March 3, 2010

JB's Restaurant

**In attendance:** President Frank Likely, Treasurer Harold Delaney, Secretary Susan Belliveau, Carolyn Torrie, and Adrien Baillargeon.

**Regrets:** VP Mary Dee MacPherson, Dan Small.

Call to order, welcome by president

**Approval of the agenda:**

*Moved by Adrien, seconded by Susan with one addition (staff appreciation report).*

***Motion carried.***

**Approval of the minutes:**

*Moved by Adrien, seconded by Carolyn. **Motion carried.***

**Business arising from the minutes:**

- 1) Anne Murray Centre update -- Susan updated the members on the status of the Legends & Lies Festival. She also indicated the weather affected the turnout for the Chilli Willi Hootenanny but those who were able to make it enjoyed the event immensely. She also said the Centre has a March 18th concert coming up featuring Juno award-winning and Canadian Country Music Association Hall of Fame inductee, Gary Fjellgaard (pronounced: "Fell-Guard"). Fjellgaard has toured with the likes of Johnny Cash and Ronnie Prophet among other notable country music icons. The concert will be held in the CIBC room at the community centre.
- 2) Harold addressed the motion not to sponsor a presentation on estate planning asking why it was turned down when a chamber member made the request. Pres. Likely indicated the chamber turned down the request because the individual doing the presentation was not from the area, and it was felt it was outside the chamber's mandate, which is to promote local businesses. He also indicated he would follow up with a letter to the chamber member who'd made the request.
- 3) Regarding the Annual General Meeting tickets, Adrien indicated there are still some outstanding ticket payments.

- 4) On the financial report issue, Pres. Likely pointed out after a question by Harold, that the need for regular financial reports was addressed at the Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce quarterly meeting. The bi-laws indicate each chamber is supposed to have an audited report each year, however most aren't doing it because of the expense involved. He pointed out the NS Chambers of Commerce is looking at changing the bi-law so that chambers only need a financial review.
- 5) Regarding the Cat survey, the president pointed out the survey was sent out to chamber members to fill out and also that the government is refusing to change its position on the matter.
- 6) On the NSCC student marketing survey, the president said he would be meeting with the students to discuss it the following day because the students are unable to attend a chamber meeting because they are in class.
- 7) Regarding the staff appreciation initiative, Carolyn indicated she delivered chocolate hearts and flowers to the teachers and support staff of all four schools in the community. She also pointed out the Chamber's recognition program was noted during a healthcare meeting on the issue of retention of doctors in the county. One suggestion on how to help retain doctors was to hold an appreciation event for them, and it was pointed out the Springhill & Area chamber had already done an appreciation for its hospital the previous year.

### **Correspondence:**

- 1) A Thank-You card from Gail Murphy thanked the Chamber for a chocolate rose she received as part of the Chambers' community appreciation initiative.

### **Reports:**

- 1) During his president's report Pres. Likely when he attended the NS Chambers of Commerce quarterly meeting Tom McGinnis, who was the guest speaker for the Springhill & Area Chamber's Annual General Meeting, commented on how well the AGM went. Mr. McGinnis praised this chamber's student entrepreneur program, said he'd enjoyed his visit to Springhill and was really impressed with the way the AGM was organized. Pres. Likely also reported on the Premier's breakfast saying the premier had pointed out that within seven years there would be no unemployment in the province because there wouldn't be enough people left to fill available jobs. He stressed the need to retain the population, noting at this rate in order to meet the employment needs in Nova Scotia in 2016 the retirement age will have to be 75.

- 2) In a report on the Finance Minister's meeting in Amherst, the president said he attended representing both the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Springhill. Although no presentations were made during the meeting, Pres. Likely said he was able to submit a written presentation. In the presentation he expressed the community's concerns regarding the proposed increase in HST saying it would be detrimental to Cumberland County, causing businesses to have to change their invoicing systems, create dual invoicing systems for out-of-province customers, and further exacerbate cross border shopping.
- 3) Reporting on the NS Chambers of Commerce quarterly meeting, the president said the Chambers of Commerce indicated the province must bring its finances under control and will be sending a letter to the provincial government saying as much. It will be pointed out that there needs to be an extreme streamlining of government operations. It was also indicated this province is the most heavily governed province in the country. The NS Chambers will also request that if there is to be an increase in provincial taxes, the government give due consideration to low income families. The NS Chambers are also calling on the premier to cooperate more fully with neighboring provinces to bring in a common economic platform so there aren't taxation discrepancies between the provinces.
- 4) The president indicated he is unable to attend the Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce Spring Forum and Membership Meeting in Halifax March 25-26. Anyone interested in attending this meeting on behalf of the Springhill & Area Chamber can contact Susan at: 597-8614 or via email: [amcevents@eastlink.ca](mailto:amcevents@eastlink.ca) to get a copy of the registration form. Also, the NS Chambers of Commerce Annual General Meeting takes place in Port Hawksbury April 29-30.

**Next meeting: April 7/10 at Jade Palace 1 pm**