

GRAND BEND & AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Executive Meeting
October 7, 2009 – 4:00 pm
Chamber Office

- 1) President, George MacDermid, called the meeting to order at 4:18 pm.
Present: Brianne Haist, Stephanie Weber, Phil Gaudreault, George Appel, George MacDermid and Christine Bregman (manager).
- 2) **Motion: moved by Brianne and seconded by Phil to approve the agenda. Carried.**
- 3) Previous Minutes
 - a) No errors or omissions.
 - b) **Motion: moved by George A. and seconded by Brianne to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting. Carried.**
 - c) Business Arising
 - i) Complaints regarding 1) traffic on Highway 21, 2) Beach Huts, and 3) Village Inn Motel and Diner were received and filed. No further action will be taken on these matters.
 - ii) George A. will continue to monitor the Lambton Shores Official Plan process for potential impact on the business sector.
 - iii) Christine will contact member, Bob Hughes, to ask for specific direction and then draft a letter of support regarding the Municipality of Bluewater's rules for accessible buildings.
 - iv) It has been determined that the Municipality of Lambton Shores owns the walkway between the north harbour wall and Eilber St. The municipality plans on tying the walkway into the Main St. renovation.
 - v) The Thanksgiving Market will be held in the Eilber St. parking lot. Christine has placed advertising in the Lakeshore Advance and on the municipal reader board, and arranged for the banner to be erected on Main St.
 - vi) A team of 10 Grand Bend chamber members and residents visited Saugeen Shores on September 18th for a First Impressions Community Exchange. First impressions recorded by each visitor will be gathered into a report that will be presented to Saugeen Shores.
 - vii) A delegation of the executive will make a presentation to Lambton Shores on November 2, 2009. The presentation will include a request funding for the Grand Bend tourist information centre.
- 4) Financial Report
 - a) **Motion: moved by Phil and seconded by Brianne to accept the financial report. Carried.**

Discussion: there is currently money in the bank account. Annual revenue is down while expenses are up. The new signage and the donation made to Grand Bend beach enhancement project are considered good use of the reserve funds.

- b) The budget will be approved at a separate meeting prior to the annual general meeting.

5) Correspondence

- a) A letter of response regarding the chambers concern about emergency vehicle access on Main Street has been received from Lambton Shores CAO, John Byrne.
- b) George A. will attend the South Grand Bend “Zone 3” Sanitary Sewer Collection System public meeting on October 29th.
- c) Complaints
 - i) Christine will draft a letter to member, 4 Absolute Luxury Rentals, regarding a complaint received from one their customers.
 - ii) Ward 1 Councillor, John Dehondt, will be asked to comment on a consumer complaint about a parking ticket.
- d) A submission from Brentwood on the Beach to the Main St. Enhancement committee regarding sidewalk cafes and patios was received and filed.
- e) Member, Jim Archibald, responded to a story about Grand Bend in the London Free Press. He expressed concern over the unintended effects of beach and Main St. renovations may be having on the youth market.
- f) The Sarnia Observer reported that trucks will be banned from Lakeshore Rd. between Mandaumin Rd. and Kettle Point.
- g) A letter of congratulations will be sent to the stakeholders of the Huron Park Airport. They recently received \$1.3 million in funding to create an aerospace manufacturing training facility.
- h) The Ministry of Transportation, Ontario announced a notice of study commencement and detailed design and class environmental assessment for the Shashawandah Creek bridge replacement.
- i) Stantec Consulting Ltd. announced that the detail design and class environmental assessment for improvement to Highway 21 from (approximately) St. Joseph to Bayfield.
- j) Bayshore Broadcasting (104.9 The Beach) reported that Lambton Shores has tendered the Grand Bend Main St. improvements and that \$2.6 million has been set aside for the project.
- k) Christine will draft a letter to Lambton Shores to support member, Aunt Gussies, in a request to restore parking on Highway 21 in front of their business.

6) Manager’s Report

- a) Monthly statistics and activities are included with the minutes.
- b) Christine will attend an upcoming Standard First Aid training course in compliance with regulations for employers.
- c) Christine will attend the Chamber Executives of Ontario conference in Mississauga on November 5th and 6th.
- d) A member poll asking “How was your summer?” was conducted to determine member satisfaction with this past summer’s business. Result will be announced at the annual general meeting.
- e) Christine will attend the Thanksgiving Market to assist with vender set-up.
- f) Stephanie will attend the EDCO Tourism Investment Workshop.

7) EDC Report

EDC committee member, Bob Sharen, requested that the chamber contact Lambton Shores regarding the following:

- Installation of motorcycle parking at the Main Beach;
- Improvement of the intersection design at the intersection of CTR 81 and Gill Rd;
- To thank them for the installation of lights on the Main Beach;
- To request that Grand Bend snow removal on Highway 21 and Main St. be at the same standard as in Forest; and
- To request their rationale for changing certain lands to “Hazard” classification (George A. will ask on behalf of the Official Plan committee).

8) Marketing

- a) A marketing survey has been distributed to the membership. Results will be announced at the annual general meeting.
- b) George A. and Christine will prepare the 2010 Visitor Guide tender and contract.
- c) An ad and front-page picture have been purchased in the Bluewater Visitor Guide.
- d) Christine will contact Mediaworld to purchase a half-page ad in the 2010 Pinery Information Guide.
- e) Grand Bend’s official homepage status – tabled.

9) New Business

- a) The chamber will ask Lambton Shores to review commercial tax rates, especially on Grand Bend Main St.
- b) HST effect on the tourism industry – tabled.
- c) **Motion: moved by Stephanie and seconded by George A. that the annual general meeting ticket price be \$25 per person. Carried.**
- d) Membership with the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario – tabled.

10) The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14th at 4:00 pm (date later changed to November 11th).

11) The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm

Signed

Date.