



February 1, 2023 Noon at Beaverhill Museum and Nature Center

Building a vibrant and prosperous community through business and organizational leadership.

February 2023 Meeting Minutes

In Person Attendance:

**Yvonne Brown- Busy Bee
Rebecca Warkentin- Country Lane Pet Boarding
Greg Litwin- Maxwell Devonshire Realty
Sharon Klassen- Klassco Interiors
Murray Klassen- Klassco Interiors
Chelsea Wiege- Queen of Hearts Pet Grooming
Calvin Andringa- Tofield Alliance Church
Jane Semeniuk- Tofield Mercury
Dawn Arnold- Tofield/Ryley Food Bank
Norm Martineau- Town of Tofield
Vanessa Koeckeritz- Vanessa's Epicure
Vanita Eglauer- Town of Tofield
Tom Keller- Welcome Basket
Brenda Chehade- Town of Tofield
Michael Gulyas- Mogtars Fix-It**

NO Zoom attendance- Could not be logged in without Sue

Meeting called to order by Greg Litwin @ 12:01

● Announcement-

- Sue as engagement director is stepping down from her position and the position will be available for application.
- Dave Spilchin passed away early January, celebration of life at the Tofield hotel

● December Minutes:

- No comments or revisions
- Greg moves that we adopting the agenda with the additions and the December minutes. Sharon Klassen 2nds- everyone in favor

● Welcome

- Introductions of members present
- **Featured Speaker Tofield and District Food Bank**
- Dawn Arnold presenting
 - Never before have they had as much need as this past year, 6 new households added in January. 30 hampers in January, 6 who came back between hampers

- More teenagers, and more from Ryley than ever before - Deliveries to Ryley every month
 - Lots of financial support from the local community. Churches take 1 month of the calendar year
 - Always looking for help with community garden
 - Food drives - hockey, churches, school
 - Volunteers do not need to be on the board, but always jobs that need help and opportunity for people to get involved
 - Cannot give home canning- can only take honey
 - Have a loop farm that donates meat and bread
 - 1 hamper per month, soup and bread available mid month
 - Added pet food and hygiene products to hampers
 - Needing to reevaluate what they give out, because they cannot afford to continue doing what they are doing anymore
 - Able to share their space with Boyle Street Homeless Project- work in cooperation with each other
 - Most needed food items currently- canned fruit, 1 litre of juice, rice, white flour, oatmeal
 - Emergency lunch, sponsorship from Claystone waste
 - GARDENING HELP- very much needed, last year didn't go well
- **Membership Update-Calvin:**
 - Currently 28 members- 2 more than last year
 - Important to fill Sue's role, to run some of the administration
- **2023 Goals: Calvin**
 - 35-45 members in 2023
 - Of those members would like to attract 10 home based businesses
 - Wanted to have at least 2 meetings that are evening (non noon meeting)
 - Thinking a home based business would be a good fit for the engagement positions
 - More help needed administratively to achieve these goals
- **Promo ideas: Chelsea**
 - Chelsea found that most businesses she has spoken to don't understand what they get out of the meetings
 - More than anything people want advertising
 - Maybe push the free social media advertising for members
 - Making sure people know about chamber member benefits
 - Promoting our own Chamber of Commerce Facebook page- currently only 100 members
 - Use Town of Tofield website to go through the list of local organizations and businesses
- **Roundtable:**
 - Snow Goose Festival :Vanita
 - April 22-23, 2023
 - Ran 1993-2002, celebration of the spring migration at Beaverhill Lake ○
 - Information Pamphlet distributed with tour, tradeshow, Banquet, food service, volunteer, advertising information
 - Expanding this year to include Sherwood Park & Strathcona County
 - Private buses expected as well

- Guest speaker for banquet not confirmed yet
 - Silent auction at banquet, proceeds back into festival
 - Trying to find someone to operate concession at arena
 - Volunteers needed
 - Registration will be more digital festival, advertising available for the insert
 - Tofield Mercury creating program that will go into the newspaper before the
 - Information on Town of Tofield website, will be updates there and on social media
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- Welcome Basket: Brenda
 - Provided stats on basket

 - Golden Club, Co-op open - Yvonne Brown
 - Valentine tea at Golden Club

 - Next meeting March 1st, 2023 @ noon- Speaker Tofield Ag Society

Meeting Adjourned at 12:52