



January 11, 2023 Noon at Beaverhill Museum and Nature Center

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

MEETING MINUTES

Participants were invited to bring a bag lunch and the Chamber provided refreshments.

In person attendance:

Barb Ferguson- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 91
Bonnie Ferguson- Royal Canadian Legion Br. 91
Michael Gulyas - Mortar's Fix-It
Chelsea Weig - Queen of Hearts Pet Grooming
Jana Semeniuk - Tofield Mercury
Yvonne Brown - Busy Bee
Brenda Chehade - Town of Tofield
Tom Keller - Welcome Basket
Calvin Andringa - Tofield Alliance Church
Greg Litwin - Maxwell Devonshire Realty
Belle Henderson - Member at Large

Attendance over zoom:

Sue Muma - Engagement Director

Vice President Greg Litwin called the meeting to order at 12:05. Attendees were invited to join us with a bag lunch and the Chamber provided light refreshments.

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Adoption of the Agenda with additions and approval of December meeting minutes.** The membership has requested that going forward, it once again be noted who moved and who seconded a motion.
- **Elections**

Greg agreed to take on the role of President, Calvin and Belle both agreed to allow their names to stand for the positions they occupy for one more year and Chelsea agreed to accept the role of Vice President. There being no further nominations Yvonne Brown moved we approve the executive as elected. Seconded by Bonnie Ferguson. Carried. Greg reminded everyone there are lots of areas to become involved other than taking on an executive position.

- **Membership Report - Calvin Andringa**

In April of 2022 when we began the initiative to revive the Chamber we had under 10 paid up members and we now have 27 members. Our goal is to grow to 50 members in 2023. E-transfer and on-line registration have made the pathway to membership much easier.

We want to be more flexible with our meeting times and location. More information to come on that. The role of the Engagement Director may change in the months ahead as Sue would like her role to move more to the background work leading membership and retention and have less of a social media presence. More information on that is to follow.

- **Financial Report - Calvin Andringa**

Calvin presented the December 31 2022 Balance Sheet and Income Statement as well as the 2023 Budget. Calvin moved these documents to be accepted as presented Seconded by Brenda Chehade. Carried

- **General Discussion regarding Town of Tofield and Chamber events to be held during the year- led by Greg Litwin**

Promenade - August 11 2023

Bull Bash - August 10 2023

Rodeo - August 12,13

Bingo - Brenda Chehade suggested we run more Bingos throughout the year as they have proven to be very successful events. Greg pointed out that the Chamber would not be able to get their own license but rather the license for Bingo is held by the Tofield Ag Society. They may choose to make a donation to the Chamber from time to time but we cannot ask them for money.

Small Business Week - 3rd week of October

Trunk and Treat - Last Sunday before October 31

Don't Hibernate Fair

Trade Show/Open house to encourage home based businesses to join us. Maybe a table at the **Farmers Market**. An Open house could potentially take the place of a regular meeting

Snow Goose Festival- End of April

The consensus was that we will proactively put Small Business week on the agenda for the next meeting.

- **Benefits of Membership for an Organization - Calvin Andringa**

Calvin shared his experiences growing up in a small town, his Dad ran a business there and he became very aware of the positive impact organizations have in a community. They help the community to improve and it is a wonderful way to network. I am sure he said a lot more but I got caught up in listening and forgot that I ought to be writing stuff down.

- **Roundtable**

Welcome Basket

Brenda Chehade provided an update on the statistics and the activities of the Welcome Basket Initiative. She has delivered 2 in December and 29 baskets for the entire year. She has only 2 prepared baskets left and she desperately needs more SWAG. It was pointed out that new residents need to be referred due to FOIP. The Town of Tofield cannot provide the names of new residents.

Legion

They are bringing back Robby Burns night on January 28 2023. Doors open at 4:00 and the cost is \$20.00 per plate for adults.

- **General information**

Yvonne Brown reminded us that there is some pretty good Curling happening in Camrose over the next few days.

She mentioned a new business in town **Rustic Paws** and she will be visiting them on behalf of the Chamber.

The Emergency department at the hospital remains closed from 8PM to 8AM due to staffing shortages.

- Adjourned at 12:55
Next meeting February 1 2023 at the Museum and Nature Center.