

Pontiac Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday Oct. 15, 2008 630 pm
Café 349 Shawville, Quebec

Board Members present:

Heather Duggan	Pontiac Home Bakery, Shawville
Dan Eagan	Elmside View Farms/DanNan Holsteins, Bristol
Betsy Farrell	Clarendon
Jim Gibson	Pointe aux Pins Lodge, Rapides des Joachims
Todd Hoffman	Campbell's Bay Ciment, Litchfield
Luc Lapointe	Lucca Equestrian Centre, Clarendon
Tom Orr	Tom Orr Cartage, Clarendon
Marlene Scullion	Spruceholme Inn B&B, Fort Coulonge
Jim Thompson	Pine Lodge, Bristol

Non board members present:

Jenny Bousfield Minutes recorder

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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.
2. The agenda was approved. Motioned by Heather Duggan, seconded by Marlene Scullion.
3. The minutes of August 13th are reviewed. Motioned by Dan Eagan, seconded by Luc Lapointe.
4. Communications: Jim and Betsy have been receiving updates and notifications of upcoming events from the Québec and the Canada Chamber of Commerce. Jim would like everyone to think about whether they would like this information forwarded to them or if he should just pass on the relevant information.

Membership Services: Two editions of the monthly newsletter have been sent out in French and English.

5. Old Business:
 - a) All candidates meeting: was discussed. The Chamber will follow up and bring ideas to Lawrence Cannon.

- b) General meeting: The turnout was disappointing. It was suggested that the next meeting be mentioned in the newsletter.

6. Committee Reports:

- a) Finance: The financial report was available. \$2,924.97 is what is left in the bank. Advertising and web design were the big costs.

- b) Provincial/Federal Government Relations:

- i. Fuel Tax Sub Committee: Tom Orr had a meeting on October 1st where he invited 14 suppliers to attend. Only half came. Since talk has started on this issue, the gas prices have gone down in Shawville. There are four tasks to be done: send a letter to Charlotte and get statistics on sales tax collected and litres of fuel sold in 2000 and 2007; contact CAA to get studies on cars traveling between provinces; prepare maps showing the services stations, including those that have closed over the past 10 years; and get statistics from the MTQ regarding the number of cars using the bridges between Québec and Ontario.

It was determined that with the current prices of gas, we would need a minimum of an 8 cent per litre discount to be competitive with Ontario. When the gas rises above \$1.25 per litre, we would need to be given a 10 cent per litre discount.

- ii. Business Directory/Database: A meeting has been scheduled for the first week of November. A database has been selected.

- iii. Buy Local Committee: Nothing new to report.

- iv. Transportation Sub Committee:

Rail Day: Jim as well as some Ontario politicians and local mayors rode the railway from Ottawa to Pembroke. The Ottawa Central Railway would like to start a commuter rail and make connections into downtown Ottawa. If done, it would directly affect the south end of the county.

Non organized territory Roads: It is an issue to be brought up with Charlotte.

c) Strategic Planning:

- i. Committee meeting set for Oct. 21/08: Betsy needs some sort of a draft by next Friday at the latest. She needs a mission statement for the web site.

d) Bylaws: Next week.

e) Membership Services:

- i. Website Sub Committee: The date of the web site has been moved to October 30th. A translator is needed. Please contact Betsy if you know of anyone offering translation services.
- ii. Business to Business Discounts Sub Committee: **Please send your information to Betsy.** This discount is only open to members.
- iii. Membership Drive: Luc is working on a list of businesses in the Pontiac. He believes that there will be about 1 thousand mail-outs. Tomorrow's Equity will have an article on Small Business Week and the Journal will have one next week. He suggests that the mail-out have a paper that the businesses can send back with their updated address.
- iv. Small Business Week: SADC and CLD will be holding the meeting on October 23. It was suggested that we have membership stuff there as well as a table. Volunteers are needed to man the table.

7. New Business:

- a) Open forum on direction for Chamber: Various ideas were brought forward.

8. Other: Nothing

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.