



**MINUTES OF THE BLYTH BIA BOARD MEETING  
HELD AT THE BLYTH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY, March 8th, 2018 AT 8AM**

**Board Members present:** Karen Stewart (Chair), Gary van Leeuwen (Vice-Chair), Deb Sholdice (Treasurer), Irene Kellins, Cat O'Connell, Crystal Taylor, Les Cook and Gil Garratt (Secretary),

Bill Knott, Denny Scott, Peter Smith, Shane Yerema, Colleen Jordan, Jennifer Triemstra, Chris Johnson, Patrick Donnelly (from Huronsbec)

**1. Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Chair Karen Stewart called the meeting to order at 8am and welcomed everyone.

\*\*\*This was a meeting focused on the preparation and alignment of grant applications to be initiated and supported by the Blyth BIA, for matching funding from the Destination Animation program of RTO4\*\*\*

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

- None Declared

3. Bill Knott spoke about the value of the RTO investment to the community and apprised everyone of new money from OMAFRA for facade improvement. Bill reported that the township has \$30,000 for facade improvement through this program. Blyth businesses should keep this in mind.

Bill also spoke about the new EcDev Committee at North Huron and how to engage with them. Bill proposed that the BIA should sit down with the EcDev Committee and share the scope of the work we are doing.

4. Gary Van Leeuwen made a motion that the chairs of the Blyth BIA and Wingham BIA should meet and to coordinate a presentation to the North Huron Ec Dev Committee.

Motion: BBIA 12/18

Moved: Gary

Seconded: Bill

Disposition: Carried

5. Bill informed the group about another recent approval of a joint application for funding to be able to sponsor a contest for an enterprising new business "to win a free year of rent for a storefront". Libro, Huron Futures (Paul Nichols), Wingham BIA, Blyth BIA, and North Huron Township can all contribute to and support this initiative; an incubator for business development, in addition to the money covering the storefront. Amanda Piskorski will be the staff person in charge of administration.

Irene Kellins made a motion.

Motion: BBIA 13/18

Moved: Irene

Seconded: Crystal

*that the BIA should support this initiative in principle*

Disposition: Carried

No other action-based motions were made, but a wide variety of capital and marketing initiatives were discussed including: benches, bicycle lock-ups, a water-fountain, planters, selfie-booths, and the gateway project as presented by Les Cook at the AGM.

Patrick Donnelly talked about the initiatives as presented and their eligibility for RTO funding.

Marketing Committee to meet next week to discuss.

## **6. Adjournment**

**MOTION: BBIA14/18**

MOVED: Deb Sholdice

*- That there being no further business before the Blyth BIA Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:15am*