



**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, Shane Yerema, Colleen Jordan, Jennifer Triemstra, Chris Johnson,

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

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

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

- None Declared

3. Approval of the Minutes

To receive the minutes as presented

Motion: BBIA 15/18

Moved: Crystal

Seconded: Irene

Disposition: Carried

4. Bill Knott spoke about the upcoming OMAFRA sponsored facade improvement program. Bill reported that the township will have between \$30,000-\$46,000 for facade improvement through this program. Blyth businesses should keep this in mind. It will be 50/50 matching funds.

5. Correspondence:

The Blyth BIA has received a letter requesting suggestions for the nomination of potential candidates for the local representative for the Federal Liberal Party.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Very little to report. Audit is officially back and there are no surprises.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report.

Motion: BBIA 16/18

Moved: Gil

Seconded: Deb

Disposition: Carried

7. The group had a robust conversation about the signs at either of town and their current and future condition. Bill advised the group that he would likely be able to attain replacement signs for between \$1600- \$1800. Consensus was to not replace the signs at this time. Karen agreed to circulate the BIA sign policy to the BIA executive for review.
8. Bill Knott reported on the ongoing budget conversations for North Huron Township. The future of the museum in Wingham is in contention. Irene asked about the state of the Greenway trail, Bill advised her to speak with Pat Newson. G2G trail is in the process of taking over many of

these leases.

9. Bill relayed that Councillor Brock Vodden put forward a motion to thoroughly cost out the expense of snow removal in Blyth. There was a passionate conversation about the future of snow removal in downtown Blyth, with general consensus being that the 2017/18 efforts did not meet need or expectation. A delegation from the BIA is to organize to go to council and argue our case.
10. Blyth BIA is looking to invite the Wingham BIA to town to have a reception, discussion, and to attend a preview at the theatre, on Thursday May 31st.
11. Deb relayed that the campground is suspending its welcome bag program. The Citizen/North Huron Publishing has been approached to create a Campground Newspaper to replace the loss of shared information. The small paper will be 12 pages long and printed in a run of 2500 copies. Currently looking for businesses to partner by buying ads.
12. Karen reported that RTO4 should confirm approved application in 10 days.
13. A question was raised about the upcoming annual Volunteer Appreciation issue of the Citizen, and whether the BIA would participate again this year. Bill made a motion to do so.
Motion: BBIA 17/18

Moved: Bill

Seconded: Irene

Disposition: Carried

14. Adjournment

MOTION: BBIA18/18

MOVED: Irene

- That there being no further business before the Blyth BIA Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:05am