*Building bridges to better business in Augusta, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal and Prescott.”*

Chairperson – Bonnie-Pidgeon-Cougler

Board Members Present: Andrea Derochie, Deb Coles, Blinda Campbell, Lisa Temple, Joe Martelle, Lynda Joanisse

Board Members Absent: Tim MacKay, Ben Quenneville

Regrets: Rod Palmer

In Attendance: Jeff Shaver – Augusta Township, Pat Sayeau – Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Township, Sandra Lawn – Sandra S. Lawn & Associates Inc.

**Welcome and Call to Order** – President Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 and a quorum was confirmed.

Due to timing issues, Bonnie requested that the HR Report be moved to after the Bluegrass Festival presentation and the Chamber Insurance Report be included in the treasurer’s report.

**Introduction of Guests**

Bonnie introduced Kim Wallace from the Spencerville Bluegrass Festival.

**Presentation from Bluegrass Festival**

Kim Wallace gave a presentation about the Bluegrass Festival that has been taking place in Spencerville for the past 5 years. This year the festival will occur from August 15 to August 18. Kim commented the festival is growing every year and people from all over come to the festival to hear well-known bands from Canada and the United States. Spectators park their RV’s at the fairgrounds and stay for the entire event. It is a great tourist attraction. Andrea suggested that perhaps they would like to advertise on the Chamber of Commerce website. The names of all sponsors are posted on the program. The Bluegrass Festival has requested $300.00 from the Chamber for their event.

**HR Committee** – Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler

Bonnie reported that the HR Committee met (Rod Palmer, Tim MacKay and Bonnie) and they reviewed the application for processing financial requests. As part of the revision the application will have a designated line that will be devoted to sponsorship which will include a dollar amount. This revision will be in effect in 2020. Everyone that asks for funding will have to go through the application process. The process will include making a short presentation to the Chamber Board of Directors.

**Moved by Lynda Joanisse**

Accept the application for processing requests as presented.

**Seconded by Blinda Campbell Motion Carried**

**Shakespeare Ad Request**

Shakespeare has requested funding for their 2019 program. In the past the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce has put a quarter page ad in the festival’s program. The cost is $295 + HST. The ad last year only included our logo. It was suggested that we provide more information in the ad this year (website, phone number, email etc.).

**Moved by Joe Martelle**

To approve Shakespeare Ad Request and Bluegrass Festival Request

**Seconded by Andrea Derochie Motion Carried**

Bonnie stressed that any further funding request needs to go through the application process as previously discussed.

**Approval of June’s Agenda as revised**

**Moved by Lisa Temple**

To Approve the revised June’s Agenda as presented

**Seconded by Deb Coles Motion Carried**

**Approval of May’s Minutes**

**Moved by Lynda Joanisse**

To Approve May’s Minutes

**Seconded by Blinda Campbell Motion Carried**

**President’s Greetings & Report – President Bonnie Pidgeon Cougler**

Bonnie thanked the fundraising committee for all the hard work they have been doing over the past several months organizing the events (networking barbeque, upcoming golf tournament). Bonnie also let the committee know that later in the week she will be presenting a bursary from the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce to a student at the South Grenville District High School Commencement.

The Ontario Business Achievement Awards Ceremony will be taking place on November 14, 2019 and they are currently looking for nominations for these awards. Bonnie requested that the email that she received about these awards be sent out to all membership so they can nominate. The email outlines the different categories. The deadline for nominations is July 31, 2019.

**Liaison Highlight Reports (5 minutes each)**

* **BIA** – no report
* **GCFDC**

On February 27th, 2019 the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Canada’s Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) and Minister responsible for FedDev Ontario, announced Eastern Ontario CFDCs would receive funding to support projects that drive innovation and growth in rural Eastern Ontario.

As a result of this funding support, Grenville CFDC, in cooperation with CFDCs across Eastern Ontario, recently launched the Rural Innovation Initiative Eastern Ontario.

Rural Innovation Initiative Eastern Ontario supports the transition of rural businesses into the new rural economy by driving direct investments in innovation to improve productivity, sales and employment opportunities and to transform our rural economy. Eligible project activities will foster: Innovation, Technology Adoption and Digital Connectivity.

Businesses and Not-for-Profit organizations who are planning to deliver a business-focused project, are eligible to apply.  Applicants must have a Business Number (HST/Payroll Number) and must be located in the Municipalities of Augusta, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, North Grenville, and/or the Town of Prescott.

Minimum project size is $50,000 (i.e. Grenville CFDC $25,000; Applicant $25,000). A business may receive a maximum of $100,000 in Rural Innovation Initiative Eastern Ontario contributions during the period May 21, 2019 to March 31, 2021. This maximum can be met through one project or through multiple projects.

For details and to apply, visit: <https://www.grenvillecfdc.com/grants>.

Questions: Businesses are invited to contact Darren Gallacher 613-925-4275 ext. 22 and Not for Profit organizations are invited to contact Heather Lawless 613-925-4275 ext. 21.

* **Town of Prescott** – no report
* **Augusta Township**

Jeff reported that they are scheduled to move into the new firehall next week. The grand opening of this will take place later this year.

* **Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal**

Pat reported that final approval for site plan amendment for the bulk fertilizer storage barn is planned.

There is going to be construction on the Rail Bridge on County Road #2 in the upcoming months. During construction, County Road #2 will be down to single-lane traffic which will last approximately 6 – 8 weeks.

Two big paving projects for the summer will be taking place soon (Pittston and Weir Roads)

Greenergy is now proceeding with the construction of their fuel transfer depot which is on the Jones Rail property at the northwest corner adjacent to the CN main line.

He reported that there will be no Port Days this year.

**Treasurer’s Report – Deborah Coles**

Deb reported that although she is still receiving membership fees, she is going to resend a couple of the invoices for members who have not paid yet. Deb also reported that she received renewal invoices for the Yearly Chamber Insurance.

**Approval For Yearly Chamber Insurance**

**Moved by Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler**

To Approve Yearly Chamber Insurance

**Seconded by Lisa Temple Motion Carried**

**Moved by Deb Coles**

To Approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented

**Seconded by Lisa Temple Motion Carried**

**Secretary’s Report – Joan Rupert-Barkley**

Joan reported that South Dundas Chamber of Commerce along with the Iroquois Waterfront Committee and the South Dundas Historical Society will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

**Committee Reports:**

Memberships – Andrea Derochie

Andrea received 2 membership applications from Century 21 – River’s Edge Ltd. and Gorrell, Grenkie and Remillard.

**Moved by Bonnie Pidgeon-Cougler**

Motion to accept Century 21 River’s Edge Ltd. and Gorrell, Grenkie and Remillard as

members to the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce

**Seconded by Lynda Joanisse Motion Carried**

Marketing and Communications – Blinda Campbell

Blinda reported that the networking barbeque was a huge success even though the weather did not cooperate. The Marketing and Communication Committee continues to meet every Monday at 3. They are now finalizing the golf tournament. She said that anyone that is interested in helping out with this event is welcome. Blinda commented that there has been a lot of support.

They are also looking for businesses for their Business After 5 nights.

**General Business:**

Sandra Lawn reported that:

The name of the lighthouse has been changed to the Dominion Lighthouse Visitor’s Centre.

The Forwarder’s Museum is still closed.

Grenville Heritage will be holding a celebration of Brad Hubbard’s vision for downtown Prescott.

There is a new scuba diving ramp at the end of Centre Street.

Closing Remarks – President Bonnie Pidgeon Cougler

**Moved by Andrea Derochie**

To adjourn the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce Board of Director’s Meeting on June 24, 2019.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 a.m.