



MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD  
& DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Final Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

**6pm Library Meeting Room**

Welcome & Call to Order

Present: Robyn Eagle, Kate Folk, Yves Grandmaitre

Absent: Chantal Roulston, Trevor Johnson, Rob Cook, Pam Watts

Guests: Carlos Card, Lisa Card, Doug Stroud, Mary Kate Laphen

Approval of Agenda

As quorum was not achieved, no motions and no votes taken

Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

None

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting : [February 14, 2023 Draft Minutes](#)

No Quorum, deferred

Council Liaison:

- Summary of Council Delegation March 13: Robyn

No updates

Business Arising/Action Items

- Community Grant Applications - Update/Status

No Updates

- Summer Tourism Ambassador - Update/Status: Yves, Pam

No updates

- Constant Contact Mailing Software -

- Canva Account: Kate

**ACTION:** Kate to sign up

- Invoicing from Constant Contact: Pam

No updates

New Business

- Grant Match - Update: Yves/Sally

Yves reported back re a zoom call with Grant Match. Chambers fall in a grey zone. The site targets Municipalities and businesses. Chambers offer a service to businesses. Grant Match indicates that in approximately 4-6 weeks additional functionality will be added to the web site which allow provide search functions meeting the intent of the Chamber to provide assistance to businesses looking for grants.

- Regional Tourism Strategy - Update from United Counties: Yves  
No Updates

- RTO 9 Regional Tourism organization - status of request for input  
**ACTION:** Kate will follow up

- [MAG 250\\$](#) funding request  
**ACTION:** as no quorum, Robyn will sent an email for approval for the max \$200

- Additional washrooms for Garage sale day  
**ACTION:** discussions re offering washrooms downtown for the day. Robyn will send out an email for approval and number.

- Street banner on St. Lawrence  
A suggestion was received to have a setup allowing for banners to hang across St Lawrence. This would involve getting approvals from at least County, the Municipality and the building owners. The request has been passed on to the streetscaping sub committee for review.

- Business and Volunteer Awards  
Deferred

- Submission of application to CBC 'Still Standing' show for next season: Yves  
Deferred

- 1) Doug Stroud comments:
  - Was appreciative of Chamber support
  - Detailed challenges with confirming dates for use of Municipal facilities. Would like to see better planning. Chamber president will follow up with CAO for update on process
  - Doug suggested reaching out to RBC re blank sign.
- 2) Upcoming events: Kate shared that a spring event, May 20<sup>th</sup>, will be occurring in cooperation with Merrick prep, Pickle and Myrrh and Maple and Rose as well as local restaurants for a one day "picnic" where baskets can be purchased at local restaurants and eaten on the lawn at Maple and Rose. Artisan booths will be available at Merrick prep on same day.
- 3) Chaiya are organizing a series of small events on the lot beside Alpaca Tracks with costumed characters such as Cinderella etc. Details to come
- 4) Discussion re response to the CHEZ 106 small town contest. Yves will reach out to Mayor to arrange a meeting with him and Robyn to discuss possible approach. Suggestions are an invite to the morning crew, maybe a gift basket, TBD

#### Correspondence

Letter of Support for the Raggae Festival - Update: Robyn  
No response from CAO to the letter sent. Event now moved to Smiths Falls. Discussions with Council have occurred re establishing a planning process.

#### Committee Reports

- Membership: Rob
    - 2023 Renewal Status
- Door stickers being handed out
- Communications/Marketing & Promotion: Kate

- Website

Merrickville Monday Instagram feature to re start.

- Social Media Activities
  - Promotion of May 6 Village Garage Sale

Kate will be promoting

- Marketing Activities
  - Destination Magazine

We will repeat the same Chamber content as last year

- Le Boat and Preferred Partnering Businesses

Kate and Yves are meeting with Le Boat on Thursday

- RTO-9 Rep for Southeastern Ontario - request from Lindsay

Kate to follow up

- Networking & Partnership: Sally
  - Business Welcome to new Residents

In process

- Farm to Fork Map

In process

- Events: Chantal

Possible open house in May and Merrick prep open house

- Map: Lisa

Lisa is ok to do layout this year. Robyn and Yves will work on getting ads/Pricing TBD based on most recent printing price. Yves to inquire with supplier for approximate cost to determine pricing

Streetscaping Working Group - Lisa/Robyn E/Robyn F/Rose Decateur/Audrey Bridge

- Tote Bag Sales

Sales are going well. Lisa will reach out to Janet Campbell who has expressed interest in also selling. Lisa suggests getting a square reader for events and such when Chamber wants to sell branded items. Yves suggests that a process be developed for swag products

- Lamp Post Project

Walk about with Brad Cole, CAO and engineer to determine locations. Number of posts still TBD. Posts will no longer have lights, they will have poles for hanging planters and banners. Banner images TBD, suggestion to engage MAG? Province plaques will be removed from posts and installed elsewhere, TBD. The hope is to have posts installed autumn 2023

- Seasonal Decorating Plans

Posts will be wrapped for pride month and for Canada Day

Administration/Governance:

- Directors' Insurance - Update: Yves

Deferred

- Update to Letters Patent

Deferred

Treasurer Report : Pam

- Finance Report

Deferred

- CRA Update

Deferred

9. Date of Next Meeting: May 9, 2023

10. Adjournment