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MINUTES OF THE WINGHAM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: February 20, 2025

Time: 7:00pm

Location: North Huron Westcast Community Centre – Knights Lounge

Members Present: Dave Tiffin, Chair
Mitch Wright, Council Representative/Vice Chair
Doug Kuyvenhoven, Treasurer
Mitchell Pyke
Jim Snyder
Joey Havers
Amanda Martyn, Secretary

Regrets: Ryan Fergusson

Others Present: Paul Heffer, Cory Bilyea, Tara Lantz, Murray
Simpson, Adam Simpson

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00pm

2. APPROVAL OF 2024 AGM MINUTES

Moved By: Joey Havers

Seconded By: Jim Snyder

Highlights of 2024 AGM – Chair Dave Tiffin provided a report of the 2023 activities. It was noted that we are in the 10% of BIA's that are completely run by volunteers. Budget and financials for 2023 were reviewed as well as, the goals for 2024, an updates provided for North Huron and the BIA Award recipients. You can find a copy of these minutes on the BIA website: <http://winghambia.ca>.

THAT the Wingham BIA Board hereby adopts the minutes of the February, 2024 AGM meeting, as presented.

CARRIED

3. REPORT OF THE 2024 BIA ACTIVITIES

Doug Kuyvenhoven, provided a summary with photos of completed initiatives in 2024. The curb appeal sub committee, supervised under Doug, completed maintenance on the main street including: the painting of fire hydrants (town wide, 134 hydrants), weeds and grass trimming, ordering & installing flower boxes, Earth Day cleanup, assisted the Alice Munro library with a display case honouring Ms. Munro's achievements, adding some new benches to Josephine street, and refurbishing the Wingham welcome sign at both the north and south end. Doug was able to transform the BIA Bucks to an online digital format which has been successful and keeps shopping local. The BIA has been receiving ongoing demand for postings on LED sign at the North end of town. Both Dave and Doug attended the Ontario BIA (OBIA) meeting in Mississauga in April 2024. Lastly, ongoing, the BIA supports the Lions Club and parade with insurance and the marching band, as well as insurance for the Canada Day fireworks.

Still in progress is: the re-naming the park at the splash-pad in honour of Leland and Thora Vance for their ongoing donations and support, the oversight into the Town Hall Theatre, as well as, the potential for video surveillance on the main street.

The Community Improvement Plan – provides a grant that pays up to half (up to 10K) for storefront improvements.

4. TREASURER – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

Motion – Doug Kuyvenhoven

Seconded – Joey Havers

Financials are available at <http://winghambia.ca/event/wingham-bia-annual-general-meeting/>

Treasurer Doug, provided review of the 2024 financial statements

- explaining how BIA Bucks work (they are a liability on the balance sheet)
- accounts receivable are for retail promotions and things like flower boxes how they get invoiced to the BIA initially, and then we collect
- accounts payable are for items such as advertising
- the BIA levy remains the same
- associate member fees (businesses outside the core)
- LED sign includes power to run it
- retail promos we contribute gift certificates (participants pay for advertising)
- the BIA did not have to take funds out of reserves as planned

CARRIED

5. TREASURER- 2025 BUDGET

Motion – Doug Kuyvenhoven

Second – Mitchell Pyke

-available at the meeting and at <http://winghambia.ca/event/wingham-bia-annual-general-meeting/>

Treasurer Doug, provided review of the proposed 2025 budget:

- no change for membership fees
- associate members fee is slightly higher for 2025 (\$2100) part of the benefit is that they get promoted on the LED sign
- we are still expecting to receive a grant of \$7000 for Rural Economic Development (RED) in 2025 for the benches
- there are plans to move \$55K from our reserves
- BIA plans to reduce advertising down to \$1000
- curb appeal budget to remain the same as 2024
- budgeting for some receptacles to be installed on poles at the south end of town
- budgeted for some flags and banners as we need to replace and add some new
- BIA proposing to increase the Festival of Lanterns budget to \$2000 from \$1500
- budgeting for a new, BIA LED Sign at a north location

6. NORTH HURON COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Mitch Wright provided an update from Council:

-Budget: The first internal budget meeting is next week. They are being diligent and hoping to see a fine tune budget with a reasonably tax increase presented.

-Daycare Project: The new daycare in Blyth will be the big upcoming project. There is a huge need for daycare spaces in the area as there is a large geographic area that doesn't have a licence daycare. The Township received a grant last fall to assist with this. The proposed site is behind the Blyth arena. Staff are currently working on design, and proposal for 2025 and hoping for construction in 2026.

-Staff Recruitment: There were a number of vacant senior positions but the candidate search it is going well. First round of interviews has been completed for the CAO position with some quality candidates and they are hoping to finalize shortly.

-Recycling Program: As of April 1 2025, the province is converting its recycling program from something paid by the municipalities to a producer paid system (an Ontario wide company that sub contracts out to municipalities). Only residential waste is part of this program as commercial and industrial are required to be kept separate. The municipality is going to set up an alternative collection contract. There will be no visible change this year...more to come

7. 2025 GOALS

- The installation of hydro and banner holders on poles north of the train station. This will allow continuous flow of lights and banners to the north end of the BIA core.
- The continuation of round table calls with other Huron county BIA's as well as the OBIA zoom calls on Tuesdays when possible.
- Curb appeal projects will be ongoing.
- The continuation of working with municipal staff on installing video surveillance in the downtown core.
- The continuation or working with the municipality of EV charging stations for Wingham in a beneficial location
- Working closely with the Theatre's 3rd party manager to see more quality shows provided to our community.
- The continuation of initiatives promoting Wingham as a tourist stop.

8. BIA AWARDS

- Civic Improvement Award was presented to:
 - Stapleton Interiors –for their work completed on their entranceway which promotes accessibility
 - Frosty Queen – for the upgrades done to their façade
- Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to:
 - Joe & Heidi Carter – for their work on leading the 2024 Wingham homecoming as well as taking leadership on the Festival of Lanterns, Halloween event, held each October
- New Business recognized are:
 - The Candy Corner
 - I Want That Bag

9. QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

- Paul Heffer wanted to provide thanks on behalf of council, for BIA's work on all the curb appeal and dedication to the downtown core
- Joey Havers noted that the retail committee will be determining their dates for 2025 sidewalk sales at their next meeting, so we should be receiving finalized dates shortly.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: Dave Tiffin

Seconded By: Joey Havers

Next meeting, Thursday March 20th at 6:30pm

THAT the Wingham BIA Board agrees that there being no further business before the Board, and AGM the meeting adjourn at 8:05pm.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary