

Wingham BIA – Annual General Meeting
Thursday, February 16th, 6:30pm – Knights of Columbus Lounge

Board Members Present: Dave Tiffin, Jim Snyder, Carolyn Young, Annette Monsma, Mitch Wright, Doug Kuyvenhoven, Ashley Vander Velden

Absent: None noted

Others Present: Paul Heffer, Ryan Ferguson, Demetri Makrakos (Economic Development Officer – North Huron), Cory Bilyea (Wingham Advance Times)

1. Welcome – Called to order @ 6:32pm
2. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes – **Moved by: Dave Tiffin; 2nd by: Jim Snyder - Carried**
3. Wingham BIA Constitution Changes
 - a. Demetri Makrakos – NH Economic Development Officer presented the following information that the Board is to discuss and decide upon
 - b. Wingham and Blyth BIA to follow the formats around finance and sub committees in the constitution. This will make it easier and cleaner to navigate moving forward.
 - c. Demetri presented mapping on zoning around Commercial and Industrial areas and businesses that currently would be captured under BIA levy. Currently included are Core, Highway and Industrial Areas within Wingham Ward. The proposal is to keep Core/Highway only. With Industrial businesses having the option of being an associate member. The change would lower the levy and the number of members. However, this would have minimal income reduction to the BIA.
 - d. **Motion:** To approve the Constitution changes as presented at the 2023 AGM, including the boundary changes as presented, eliminating Industrial only, and for Demetri to take these forward to Council to approve.
 - e. **Moved by: Doug Kuyvenhoven; 2nd by Ashley Vander Velden – Carried.**
4. Report of BIA 2022 Activities – Dave Tiffin
 - a. Reopening through COVID occurred
 - b. New Businesses opened, with the closure of a few as well
 - c. LED sign completed in March. Lots of positive comments. Ashley doing a fantastic job with the upkeep and maintaining the digital signs
 - d. July Fireworks went ahead – BIA covered Insurance. Noting an increase in Insurance costs.

- e. Curb Appeal went well. 2 waste free Wednesdays went well. Along with flower baskets and Gnomes.
 - f. Retail – Successful summer sidewalk sales
 - g. Museum move has been shelved, to great disappointment. However, there are talks about moving the Alice Munro display over to the library. More to come on this.
 - h. Tourist Map was a great success. There are a few errors that have been noted for the next time.
 - i. Wingham Mural Project is now with the artist to complete. Expected timing of install on the Community complex is late spring/early summer, depending on weather.
5. Treasurer – Financial Statements 2022 – available on BIA Website. – Doug Kuyvenhoven
- a. OBIAA & Chamber Member increased. This is due to the BIA joining the Huron County Board. Will monitor this throughout the year to determine the benefits.
 - b. Banners – 25 Lamppost banners with musical instruments. These will be installed at the same time as the Canada Flags. Noting - Banners were not done in time to be installed in 2022.
 - c. Community Events & Sponsorships – this went up substantially due to rising insurance costs that the BIA covered for the parade and fireworks.
 - d. Christmas Decorations – Cost was mostly around the materials for the Gnomes.
 - e. Christmas Lights and Repairs – Costs associated with Cruikshank Park lighting repairs and replacements.
 - f. Retail promotions – Prizes distributed by way of Community cash and the paying for the food trucks which were at some events.
 - g. Approx \$ 35,000 sitting in reserves
 - h. Budgeted \$30,500 in expenses and spent \$21,799
 - i. BIA Advertising – budgeted \$2000. However, did not spend due to timing and volunteer hours to initiate this.
 - j. Mainstreet Improvement – budgeted \$3000. Did not spend.

Motion: To accept the 2022 Financial Statements as presented.

Moved by: Dave Tiffin; 2nd by Annette Monsma – Carried.

6. Treasurer – 2023 Budget – Available on BIA Website – Doug Kuyvenhoven
- a. Expecting membership fees to be down – this is to the rezoning of the Wingham Ward BIA levy (Core/Commercial/Highway)
 - b. Transfer from Reserves of \$24,000
 - c. Flags and Banners – Only Flags are needed this year
 - d. Mainstreet Improvement – Discussion around the replacement of the existing wood benches around downtown. Proposal that we used funds transferred from reserves to replace with new steel benches with BIA logo and refurbish old benches for use along the Community trail. Noted that a sub committee would

need to be put in place to explore options/ quotes to bring back to the BIA for further discussion.

- e. OBIAA Conference - Occurring in London this year (mid-April). BIA has not attended since 2014 due to locations. Agreement among board there is an opportunity to attend. Demetri advised he will forward a grant application to assist in covering the cost to attend.
- f. LED sign – Town to start billing BIA for hydro and Hurontel to start billing for internet. Demetri will follow up with Finance department to ensuring billing is handled.

Motion: approve proposal for 2023 budget to be submitted for approval

Moved by: Dave Tiffin; 2nd by Carolyn Young – Carried.

7. 2023 Goals

- a. New benches as discussed.
- b. Continue to promote Townhall Theatre
- c. New flags and banners to go up
- d. New Christmas theme – Gnomes are now 2 years old and have run their course. Time to think of something else
- e. Continue close work with Community Connectors
- f. Chair to continue to attend round table calls with other BIA's
- g. Curb Appeal to continue under the direction and guidance of Doug K.
- h. New Coordinator needed for Retail
- i. Curb Appeal initiatives include: Wingham signs and Alice Munro signs need attention, Community Group Sign are in rough shape – suggestion made to take them down, Tall grasses/garden be installed under LED sign, Founding of Wingham sign needs refurbished, North Huron sign at industrial section of town needed touched up, Fire hydrants need a coat of paint, Wingham Cemetery entrance and fencing needs work – town could assist with this.

8. North Huron Council Update – Councillor Mitch Wright

- a. Cross border servicing with Morris Turnberry is moving along
- b. Hutton Heights – looks like work is happening – more to come
- c. Budget talks – still in progress
- d. Homecoming 2024 – resignations from committee have taken place. As a Committee of Council, there is legislation that must be followed. North Huron is continuing to work with volunteers to find the best structure and avenue to move forward. Council strongly supports the Homecoming. More to come on this.

9. Election of Board of Directors

- a. Demetri reviewed the submissions, and the following names are moving forward to council to approve: Ryan Ferguson, Dave Tiffin, Doug Kuyvenhoven, Jim Snyder, Annette Monsma, Joey Havers, Carolyn Young

10. BIA Award Announcements

- a. New businesses – Noah’s Pizza, Duck Duck Juice, Riverview Eatery, Cornerstone Pizza
- b. Civic Improvement – Fogels, KFC, Maitland Family Dental
- c. Volunteer of the Year – Ashley Vander Velden

11. Questions and Answer Session

- a. Reeve Heffer Thanked the BIA for all their work throughout the year.

12. Motion: Adjourn at 8pm – Dave Tiffin; 2nd by Jim Snyder – Carried.

Chair: Dave Tiffin

Secretary: Carolyn Young