

VANKLEEK HILL

Business and Merchant Association

May 21, 2019 at The Review

PRESENT: Louise Sproule (President co-chair), Pat Deacon (President co-chair), Ben Martin (Vice-President), Miria Baliddawa (Treasurer), Adele Robert (Secretary), Emily Gallagher and Deborah Jackson (Directors).

ABSENT: Laura Cross and Les Hatz (Directors).

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Welcome

2. Quorum

This requirement has been met.

3. The Minutes of the March 27th meeting were approved by Miria and seconded by Deborah.

4. Financials

* Financial statement was presented by Miria and reviewed by the Board members and she confirms that they are up-to-date. The financials are approved by Deborah and seconded by Adele.

5. Membership

* The membership list counts over 30 paid members. However, still many are outstanding. This situation was discussed amongst the Board members.

6. Newsletter, Facebook

* The newsletter is published on a regular basis and Deborah is always looking for content. Members provide little or no feedback to the Board for insertion into the newsletter. The BMA does not consider it is our responsibility to solicit information from members.

* Pat tabled the recent situation with Excellent Events. She and Adele will reach out to Samme Putzel to offer assistance from the BMA.

7. Website

* Domain expired in February 2019. The BMA has received a few quotes. Ben and Deborah to study them and offer an overview at the next Board meeting to enable us to move forward with a new site.

8. Special events

* Trash and Treasure is approaching on June 1st. Louise already addressed permits, etc. with the Township and spots are being booked.

9. Other business:

* Cenotaph Park – Emily advises the committee that the Amell sisters are not interested in being involved in this project. It has been very difficult getting feedback from the Township even though Emily sent a letter to the council. Louise advises that she also sent a communication to the Township asking if they wanted the BMA's involvement or do we move on? No response to date. She also advised them that the BMA would gladly assume the costs of replacing the ugly light fixtures that have been installed as they do not represent the cache of our town. We have been turned down on this point.

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*Trivia Night – The next event is scheduled for June 27th @ 6 p.m. Emily advises the committee that it is going well regardless of some of the comments received concerning the chosen categories.

* Bingo – none scheduled for the moment although Miria has resolved some issues.

Tax documents must be filed before we can move forward.

* VKH \$Bucks\$ - Adele confirms her availability to sell the bucks at an upcoming VKH Farmers' Market on Saturday. Just waiting for confirmation from Aartje. Miria asks Emily to draft up an agreement between the BMA and Foodland concerning the handling of the VKH \$Bucks\$.

* Trash N Treasure – as stated earlier all is in progress and confirmation was received for the locations of the portable toilets.

* Spring planters – Unfortunately due to the unavailability of Jill Crosby we have not been able to move forward with this project to beautify Main street.

* Prospective new Board members – Each member will approach a business owner to ascertain their availability and willingness to join next year's Board. (The Amell sisters – Emily), (Kelsey Carkner – Adele), (Joanne Hines – Pat), (Kim Fetter – Pat), (Kelsey Parent - Miria) (Anne Boudriault - ?)

* Digital Main street grant – nothing to report.

* VCI bursary – Adele has confirmed the BMA's bursary with VCI and wanted guidance as to who should be the recipient. Louise suggests a student furthering their studies in business or marketing. Emily volunteers to attend the ceremony.

* Summer students for the Info Centre. Ben advises that we have interested candidates but as a couple of them are family members, he has asked Adele to do the interviews. She will then share her impressions with him so that a decision can be made. His niece Madison who worked at the Info centre last year is interested again and has gained experience.

* Alexandria business association partnership. Miria advises that there does not see to be any interest at this time and that the Association itself may be folding.

* Les Flâneurs evening – Pat brings the Board up to date on the costs etc. The band charges \$1200 for 45 minutes of dance lessons and an hour of dancing. The Zudio is offering their premises for a maximum of 50 people at \$30/hour. The date of September 7th is discussed. This could be a wine and cheese evening, featuring Beau's, Sarah Cole Cider and our local vineyard. Emily will approach them to discuss. Adele will approach St-Albert cheese to discuss this event with them.

* Pat brings up the issue of the Mural t-shirts. There are quite a few in stock and we should consider doing something with them. Ben suggests that an inventory be taken by the Info centre summer students.

The next Board meeting – Tuesday, June 18th at The Review.

Next OGM – tbd

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.