

**MINUTES of September 19, 2024**  
**St. Martins & District Chamber of Commerce**  
**Annual General Meeting**



1. Call to Order/Opening (Jord) - 7:05 pm
2. Roll call/Attendance - First/Jules, Seconded /Andrea.  
Attendance (Members)  
Matt Harrison - Fundy Woods Campground  
Bev Dallon - Kathron Construction  
Andrea Taylor - Quaco Museum  
Jules Hare - Cranial Waves  
Elaine Shannon - Shannon Multimedia Productions  
Jordan Jamison - Bay of Fundy Adventures  
Wendy Grozik - Bookkeeping  
Linda Moran - Century Farm Family Campground  
Jen Lingley - Fifteen 2 Equine & Co  
Attendance (Guests)  
Stephane Picard - Cliff Valley Astronomy  
Jennifer McKenzie - Peter Salmon Art Centre
3. Approval of agenda (Jord) First/Jules, Seconded /Andrea
4. **Address or proposals from the Community**
  - Wed Oct 2, 6:00 pm Hampton High school Candidate meet and greet sponsored by the Hampton Area Chamber
5. **Address or proposals from Chamber Members**
  - EI hours in the Village. We had a 9/0 vote for a yes to move forward to find out why the community has the same EI rules as Saint John and how to get this changed to the rules similar to a place like Alma that is a seasonal destination.
  - Matt Harrison from Fundy Woods Campground brought up the price of business garbage removal and there was a discussion about the pricing and how this fits in with communities like ours.

- Andrea Taylor from the Quaco Museum updated the group on the Fall Museum hours and the seasonal closing date of Oct 27, 2024. They will reopen for the Christmas in the Village dates.

## **6. Staff reports**

- 6.1. Membership update: Elaine Shannon (Current membership numbers)  
Elaine Shannon shared the membership numbers. 2020 - 25 members, 2021 - 28 members, 2022 - 33 members , 2023 - 24 members, 2024 - 31 members. The group discussed reasons for the fluctuations on the member numbers throughout the years and the annual fee amount. The question of how we contact members was posed and the Board shared how they have times through the year when they call the members individually and regular email communication.  
First / Wendy Grozik Seconded Andrea Taylor
- 6.2. Financial update: Wendy Grozik  
Chequing Account Balance is \$8942.82  
Bursary Account Balance is \$2489.46  
First / Elaine Shannon Seconded/ Andrea Taylor
- 6.3. Bursaries: Bev Dallon  
The board had two fundraisers this year organized by Bev Dallon. A number board during Winterfest that raised \$100.00 and the Old Home Week Night market that raised \$400.00.  
All monies for the Bursaries are now being fundraised and are no longer coming from the Chamber dues.  
The Chamber also manages the Jennifer Huttges Bursary and money for that bursary comes from the Huttges Family.  
This year's Bursary recipients are Aiden Leblanc received the \$350.00 St Martins and District Chamber of Commerce Bursary and Karrin Vautour received the \$500.00 Jennifer Huttges Memorial Bursary.  
First/Jules, Seconded /Andrea

## **7. Old business**

- 7.1. Upcoming speaker series: Jules Hare  
Jules Hare updated the group on the next dates for the Speaker Series - Oct 10 and Oct 24. Speakers and location are TBD. Stay tuned for an email update.
- 7.2. Winterfest update: Elaine Shannon/ Jordan Jamison  
The Winterfest Communities of Grand bay- Westfield, Saint John, Rothesay, Quispamsis, Hampton and Fundy St Martins have been meeting since July and are looking at the dates of January 18 - February

23, 2025 for 2025 Winterfest. We will update the members as soon as we have confirmation on our specific dates.

7.3. Rising Tides Festival update: Jordan Jamison

On Saturday October 5 St Martins Community will be hosting several Rising Tides events titled Canvas and Chords. The Peter Salmon Art Centre will be open from 1-5 pm for various arts related events. Old Mollys will be hosting live music with Hot Dog Water from 7-9pm.

## 8. New business

8.1. Cruise visitation management meeting update: Jordan Jamison

Jordan was part of a meeting on Tuesday Sept 17, 2024 with the Village Tourism Group. Danielle Timmons from Aquila Tours was there to discuss the Cruise issues and opportunities. The issue of bus parking and road blockages was discussed. New opportunities for bus stops in the community was brought up and it takes about 18 months of lead time to bring a new package to the cruise ship passengers. They also discussed a fee per person charge for every passenger.

8.2. Upcoming March elections: Jordan Jamison

The upcoming AGM in March will host elections for Board of Directors positions. The following position will be available:

- President
- 2 x Board of Directors positions

If you are a member in good standing, you are welcome to run for one of the 3 available positions.

8.3. ACTivate update: Elaine Shannon

On Oct 5 a group of 30 ACTivate participants from various locations will be visiting the Village and participating in experiences and visiting some of the highlights.

In November the group will be hosting an event to share the Asset Based Community Development tools with the greater community.

December the team will be graduating from their program

8.4. Proposed by-law changes, to be voted on in March: Jordan Jamison.

**Proposed edits in red.**

8.4.1. Section 3: The usual place of meeting shall be in the Village of **Fundy**-St. Martins in the County of Saint John...

8.4.2. Section 20: The officers shall be:... They shall remain in office for **two** years or until their successors shall be appointed...

*For the last several years and the last two Boards, we have used two year terms, while that has gone unreflected in the by-laws.*

- 8.4.3. Section 34: Regular General Meetings of the Chamber shall be held a minimum of 4 times a year, ~~March, June, September, and December~~, at a time and place designated by the Board.
- 8.4.4. Section 47: ...shall have the power to affiliate with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, The Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce, ~~Discover Saint John Inc~~, or any other organizations...  
*Discover Saint John Inc no longer exists. We may choose to affiliate with Envision Saint John in its place.*
- 8.5. Awareness of recent business break ins at Rustic Rooster and Second Wind Cycle with a call to members to make sure all insurance and security measures are up to date.
9. Presentation by guest speaker Stephane Picard of Cliff Valley Astronomy. His powerpoint presentation is attached to the outgoing email.
10. **Next meetings:** December Holiday Gathering, March AGM and Elections.
11. **Adjournment:** 9:15pm (Jord)

### **Further Notes:**

There have been two meetings regarding cruise ship bus tours, bus traffic, and bus tour operation practices in St. Martins.

The first meeting was September 7 and was with Jim Bedford (Mayor - Fundy-St. Martins), Andrew Fry (CAO - Fundy-St. Martins), Danielle and Trina (Aquila Tours), Jordan Jamison (President - Chamber of Commerce), and Matt Harrison (Fundy-St. Martins Tourism Committee).

The second meeting was October 16 and was with Jim Bedford (Mayor - Fundy-St. Martins), Andrew Fry (CAO - Fundy-St. Martins), Jordan Jamison (President - Chamber of Commerce), Matt Harrison (Fundy-St. Martins Tourism Committee), Andrew Beckett (CEO - Envision Saint John), Jillian MacKinnon (Envision Saint John), Micha Fardy (Executive Director - Friends of Fundy), and Jim Buckley.

The meetings included discussion on the following topics:

- Potential for more businesses to get involved with the passengers.

- Sustainability of practices.
- Parking and traffic solutions.
- Development of walkways from the covered bridge to Mac's Beach and along Mac's beach.
- Giving passengers more time and transportation options to visit more of the Village and village businesses.
- The municipality's cost to accommodate bus tours and traffic, while businesses are losing services they used to have.
- Local opinion of the bus operations.
- Envision Saint John to approach tour bus operators to discuss potential partnerships and solutions.

There have been no solid outcomes of these meetings yet. There will be more to follow in November after the conclusion of the cruise ship season in Saint John. We hope that there will be mutual beneficial practices moving forward.