

CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE  
Minutes of February 22, 2016

The Cultural Roundtable held its regular meeting on Monday February 22, 2016 at LaunchIt Minto. Roundtable members present for the meeting were: Chair Andrew Gowan, Gordon Duff, Willa Wick, Peggy Raftis, Megan Raftis, Caitlin Hall and John Cox. Members of staff present were Manager of Economic Development Belinda Wick-Graham and Administrative Assistant Cally Mann. Regrets were received from Mayor George Bridge, Councillor Mary Lou Colwell, Councillor Jean Anderson and Brooke McLean.

Chair Andrew Gowan welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

The Roundtable reviewed the previous meeting notes and made the following changes. The volunteer portal reveal was at the arena during the volunteer dinner not the Library and the Rural Ontario Institute Youth Engagement Showcase was given to Megan Raftis not the Youth Theatre Program and it is a documentary rather than a TV show.

**Motion:**

**Moved By: Megan Raftis**

**Seconded By: Willa Wick**

**THAT**

**The Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting with noted changes.**

**CARRIED**

Positive feedback from the Volunteer Portal Update was received from John Burgess and Wendy Lockwood who are posting on behalf of the IPM. Rural Route will have an advertisement within the March issue promoting the Volunteer Portal.

Wick-Graham noted that the library was available March 31, 2016 and the information night is booked from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for this date. Wick-Graham advised the committee that she has found a volunteer training program, and the trainer – Reva Cooper, is the Program Coordinator for the Volunteer Management Program through Conestoga College. Wick-Graham reviewed the training sessions that will be offered, this document is attached as Schedule “A”. Training sessions will be offered between the Town of Minto and the Township of Wellington North, with Wellington North hosting the sessions in April and October and Minto hosting in May and November. Wick-Graham recommended a cost of \$20.00 to be applied to each course, including a light dinner, with a \$20.00 discount applied if all four sessions were registered for. Wick-Graham thought it would be constructive if Reva Cooper were to attend the information night on March 31<sup>st</sup> in order to promote the training sessions, and provide a short presentation. It was proposed that Wellington North attend the information night as well for this presentation and Peggy Raftis suggested having a networking session between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00p.m., ending with the training session presentation.

Wick-Graham is seeking a new contact within the Youth Council, and provided a review of the staff newsletter from December. The newsletter noted that the

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Township of Mapleton is the only municipality that has formed a Youth Action Council thus far with the intent that Minto and Wellington North are to form councils in 2016 and that the councils will be funded through the municipal resources.

Wick-Graham showed a video of Gregory Smith promoting his 'Flipping the Iceberg Program' and confirmed that a one-day program is doable at a cost of \$75 per student. Caitlin Hall questioned how the program would attract the youths, with Wick-Graham answering that there is a possibility of partnering with the local high school. It was suggested that Gregory Smith and Paul Richards, Principal of Norwell be invited to the next Cultural Roundtable meeting to discuss this idea further.

Willa Wick advised the Committee that the Harriston Historical Society is looking to partner on a Local Heritage Marker Program. The province has a plaque program in place but they have very strict criteria and although we may find a building locally significant the Province may not. In an effort to initiate a Local Heritage Marker Program the HHS is looking for a funding partner. This program would be a Minto-wide program so the Roundtable suggested creating a form and having it organized as a grant – to be filled out and submitted to the Roundtable for approval. It was suggested that a meeting be held with the Minto heritage organizations to discuss this program more in-depth and bring recommendations forward to the Roundtable on how to proceed.

Caitlin Hall stated that the Taste Real Romp is May 28<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reroot Organic is being held in conjunction with that. Winner of the #MintoPhoto Contest, Amy Belair's prize package was described to the Committee as well.

Gordon Duff noted that the Basement Café on February 20<sup>th</sup> went over well, with the next café to be May 14<sup>th</sup>. The next movie is Brooklyn to be shown March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Duff is looking for higher attendance. Main Street Memories is on display from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to the end of April at the Minto Arts Gallery. A date of March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. has also been confirmed for the artisans co-op opportunity information night at The Old Post.

Willa Wick discussed the three art gallery rooms that display the past IPM souvenirs, with one week remaining on this display. Wick updated the Committee on how the Carmen Weppler event was and noted that there was a good turnout.

Megan Raftis advised that the documentary for the Rural Ontario Institute is to be filmed over the March Break.

Peggy Raftis mentioned that the play Artifice is opening mid-March, with Bells Reunion beginning in May. She also highlighted that there is the newly started Glee Club.

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John Cox voiced that the Chamber has been busy and had just held the Annual General Meeting and John Burgess is the new president. Community Achievement Award nominations are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Wick-Graham relayed that there is a freelance writer that wants to write about local opportunities for people moving out of the city and into rural areas. In relation to the budget, Wick-Graham brought up directing the funds – that were previously used to fund Concerts in the Park, towards local events in order to provide musical entertainment at those events. A maximum of \$500 per event was suggested in order to maximize availability. An application will be drafted and emailed to the Committee for approval.

Peggy Raftis spoke of promoting the Roundtable and what the Committee has to offer to local organizations and residents; a brochure, Rural Route article and Minto mailer were suggested.

The new Community Guide was received last week and will be distributed throughout the Town through the Wellington Advertiser. A new designer was used for the guide – Heather Watterworth. It was also highlighted that for the first time the Community Guide was divided into a Spring/Summer edition and a Fall/Winter edition to be released in September.

The next meeting will take place on Monday March 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at LaunchIt Minto.

Cally Mann  
Recording Secretary