

LaunchIt Minto
Minutes of October 11, 2016
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The LaunchIt Minto Board held a meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2016 at LaunchIt Minto. Board Members present for the meeting were Chair Glen Hall, Councillor Mary-Lou Colwell, Bernice Weber Passchier, Ryan Koeslag, Irmgard Kuersten-Kirkorian, Harold DeVries (via Skype) and Manager of Economic Development Belinda Wick-Graham.

Members of staff present included: Business Development Coordinator Somer Gerber.

Regrets were received from Hope Reidt, John Mock and Mayor George Bridge

Chair Glen Hall opened the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Hall opened the meeting with the introduction of LaunchIt's newest Board member Harold DeVries from the Business Centre of Guelph Wellington who participated in the meeting via Skype.

The Board reviewed the September financials. Hall reported that the Minto Chamber of Commerce voted on LaunchIt's proposal of an increased contribution to LaunchIt from \$12,000 to \$18,500. This increase will more accurately reflect the 50-50 split of the employee's time spent on Chamber duties and LaunchIt duties. This agreement is to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Wick-Graham discussed the idea of opening Unit #3 as a Christmas "Pop-Up Store" for local artisans and home based businesses to use over the Christmas season for a fee of \$100 per business. Gerber will be available to have the store open to the public Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and the vendors will be responsible to set up a schedule for the evenings and weekends if desired. The "Pop-Up Store" will open on November 16th - December 10th, 2016.

Hall told the Board about the Live2Lead event hosted by LaunchIt Minto at the Norgan Theatre on Friday October 7th. 100 attendees came to learn from four world class experts in leadership and the feedback was amazing. The Board discussed the opportunity to show this event two more times locally prior to December 31st, 2016. Several businesses and organizations that were unable to attend have expressed interest in sending staff and management to encore presentations. Gerber will be connecting with these businesses, as well as the Mount Forest & District Chamber of Commerce and the Township of Wellington North to discuss working together to present Live2Lead in their community.

Gerber asked the Board to offer input and suggestions on the Business Flight Program and ways to tailor it to better address and reflect the needs of local business start-ups. She believes there is a need to outline expectations to participants. Gerber suggested creating a curriculum that could be developed, incorporating online, as well as in class training for a small enrollment fee. A proposal is to be developed over the next month and discussed with the Board at the November meeting.

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Wick-Graham updated the Board on the Canada 150th grant application that was submitted. If this grant is successfully obtained, the money will be used to develop programming geared toward youth entrepreneurship. Wick-Graham outlined some key components that will be incorporated in this program such as business for a day, a youth edition of PitchIt, youth ambassadors, workshops and training. She noted that this will tie in nicely with the Minto Youth Action Council that has just formed as well as the Renew Northern Wellington program.

The Board discussed the proposal that was presented to LaunchIt/Town of Minto from the Business Centre of Guelph Wellington. This proposal outlined fees for continuing to offer business advisory services 1 day per month and training programs within our community. The cost to continue to offer this valuable service will be \$4,800 annually. No decision has been made at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

The next LaunchIt Minto meeting will be on November 10, 2016 at 8:30am LaunchIt Minto.

Somer Gerber, Business Development Coordinator