

PARIS BIA MINUTES AND NEWSLETTER

DRAFT

The February 12th, 2008 BIA executive meeting was held and Tough's Hardware and called to order at 6:00 PM with 7 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved by Maureen, seconded by Carol.

We have been advised that the planter boxes are moved as far back as they can go for traffic visibility. We have also been advised that the ramps for the handicapped cannot be painted.

The Christmas decorations were great this year. We have has many positive comments. Many thanks to Deanna and her helpers for all their hard work making the bows for the light posts, and many thanks to all those who came out to help put up all the decorations.

Kevin cannot water the plants this year, so we will need to find someone to do all the watering. It was suggested that we speak to Doug Hanna, as he may have some ideas on this. Also, we discussed seeing if there are any students that might be interested. This is a job that must be done every day, from the time the baskets go up until they come down in the fall. We are looking for any offers, ideas or suggestions on how to handle this.

Deanna suggested that we add some more pots for flowers. Shirley will see if we need permission for placement of these extra pots. We do have the OK to go ahead with planters on the bridges.

The benches in the downtown that were supplied by the Paris Lioness Club continue to be the subject of discussion. Repairs must be done to these benches, which were badly damaged by skateboarders almost immediately after they were installed. Many suggestions have been put forth as to how we will do these repairs. In the spring we will look at the possibility of turning the wood beams over so the damage will be hidden on the under side, and hopefully we can add some arms at each end so the skateboarders cannot damage these again. We also discussed removing the old benches from in front of the Cafe de Paris.

The new Accountability and Transparency Measures were discussed at length, and some of the points that will affect the BIA are as follows:

- Paris BIA meetings are to be transparent and open for public viewing
- Agendas for Paris BIA meetings should be posted in the Paris Customer Service Office at 66 Grand River Street North and on the County of Brant website by 4:30 PM on the Friday preceding the meeting
- Minutes of meetings should also be posted in the Paris office and on the County website (same as above)
- Due to the fact that the agendas will be available prior to the meeting, it is important that no new matters that require a Committee decision be added to the agenda at the meeting, unless it is absolutely necessary
- All BIA meetings are open to the public, however a meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public under certain circumstances

We have copies of the Accountability and Transparency Measures available to anyone who wishes to have the report.

We have set March 4th, 6:00 PM at Tough's Hardware for the Budget Meeting, and March 11th, 6:00 PM at Tough's Hardware for the General Meeting. We will ask Jayne Carmen to come to the March 11th meeting to answer any questions or concerns about Accountability and Transparency.

The Police Services Board is trying to get a computer for their own use instead of sharing with the OPP. Also, the police will again be putting up the "Too Fast" signs, and were asking for suggestions on placement of these signs. We also asked that the police cars slow down when they go through the downtown. Other items included the report that mischief is up a little in Paris, and also the police can no longer break into your car if you are locked out. It was brought up that some members would like an advanced green light at the corner of Grand River Street N. and Willow Street, for turning to go up the hill.

Springtime in Paris was discussed. Lisa Dalpe will again be promoting "A Taste of Paris". We also briefly talked about spending some extra money on advertising the downtown for this event, and also putting up some signage at the two entrances to town.

Lisa told us about a BIA seminar in Collingwood in April, if anyone is interested in attending.

A letter was sent to the Mayor from Hal and Marie Rothenberg, stating that they would like to suggest that the Cobblestone Common be re-named the Esther McGuire Memorial Cobblestone Common. They are, of course, not the first to suggest this, and we hope that this idea will be considered by the Cobblestone Common Committee.

We should know by the next Cobblestone Common Committee meeting whether or not we will need any of the loan money to cover expenses for the parkette.

Carol Moyer discussed advertising---we are in the Curious Country Shopper until June, and our ad in Daytripping has expired. Carol will bring all advertising information to the budget meeting.

The motion to adjourn was put forward by Maureen, and seconded by Lisa.