Chebucto Community Net

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

April 25, 2012

7:00p.m.

1. Presentation by Andrew Wright

Andrew spoke about the use of social media – Facebook, Google and Twitter – to get the word out about the Chebucto Community Net. Facebook and Google were not so successful but Twitter was very successful attracting many followers including over a dozen reporters both locally and from other areas. The effectiveness is shown by the requests for information by the CBC and opinion pieces in the Chronicle Herald and a student newspaper. Chebucto has now taken on a more advocacy position. It was decided not to censor tweets but to allow advertising for causes. Usage measures for Chebucto on Twitter are very good after only a year.

Alan Turner thanked Andrew for his efforts.

1. Call to Order

Alan called the meeting to order at 7:30

1. Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting was moved by Shahab Rowshan and seconded by Mary Rigby; carried.

1. Report from the Chair

Alan Turner reported that the Board had met 12 times and the executive had met 9 times during the year. He thanked all the Board members for their contributions and Andrew Wright and Johnathan Thibodeau for all the time they have put in to keep it going. It was noted that Andrew was learning more on the technical side and Ed Dyer was also helping to maintain and upgrade the service. Alan asked for more volunteers with technical skills. He also reported on our increased role as an advocate for accessibility, the inactive status of the WiFi initiative and our increased participation in social media, thanks to Andrew.

1. Treasurer’s Report

Alan reported that Chebucto started the year in a good financial position. Previously Andrew had been on half salary and he was put back on full salary at the beginning of the year. This lasted 10 months. A grant was also received from the Halifax Region Community Access Program Association.

Membership has decreased by about 100 resulting in decreased revenues. There was a deficit of $14000 by the end of the year mainly due to the increase in Andrew’s salary. There is still enough cash to remain in business to the end of the coming year.

1. Report from the Policy Committee

Andrew reported that the main issue regarding policy is abuse. There were 2 users who fell victim to scams compromising their passwords. There were also a number of reported cases of phishing phone calls from people trying to gain access to the user’s computer. Andrew made a request for more people to join the Policy Committee.

1. Technical Report

Johnathan Thibodeau reported that the year was spent mainly focussing on the status quo and working on the new mail system which is bigger and faster. Some of the equipment is about 10 years old and Chebucto needs to purchase second hand equipment to update the system. He stated that we need to get more people to join the Technical Committee which currently meets around 4:30 to 5:00 on Monday afternoon. Anyone is invited to drop in or suggest that to others. A suggestion was made from the floor that we recruit computer science students but Johnathan replied that most students are just interested in programming not the technical side. Bernie Hart offered to check out Computers for Schools since most of those involved have technical skills. In conclusion, Johnathan mentioned some cost cutting measures – keeping an eye on usage and cutting phone lines – which haven’t affected service.

Acceptance of the reports was moved by Doug Rigby and seconded by John McKay; carried.

1. Election of the Directors

Four of the current directors have another year in their term. The nominees were: Deborah Dostal, Marilyn MacDonald, Dorothy Moore, Johnathan Thibodeau Corrie Watt and Danny Melvin. There were three calls for nominations from the floor but there were none and the nominee list was declared elected for the next two years.

1. Appointment of the Auditor

The appointment of the current auditor for the coming year was moved by Doug Brown and seconded by Thérèse Mackintosh; motion carried.

10. Other Business

Mary Rigby wanted to note that the letter in the Chronicle Herald regarding cuts to CAP funding has the heartfelt support of the members.

John McKay thanked the Board members for their work during the year.

1. Adjournment

Adjournment moved by Doug Rigby and seconded by Mary Rigby at 7:55 p.m.