



**THE CORPORATION OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Economic Development Meeting of September 16th, 2020

PRESENT: Claude Champagne Rod Clouthier
 Jake Lacourse Steve Austin
 Steven Trahan, Councillor
 Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning & Economic Development
 Kari Hanselman, Recording Clerk

EXCUSED ABSENT: Veronica Mulligan, Angela Knight van Schaayk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dominique Marleau, Guy Paquette, Kim Rose

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion No. 2020-21

Moved by Claude Champagne

Seconded by Steven Trahan

THAT the draft agenda circulated to the Economic Development Committee dated the 16th day of September 2020 be hereby adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting Held on August 12th, 2020**

Motion No. 2020-22

Moved by Claude Champagne

Seconded by Rod Clouthier

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee held August 12th, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – None for this session

5. **Chair's Comments** – None for this session

6. Updates/New Business

6.1 Phil Koning – Resignation from the committee

Mr. Koning has resigned from the Committee.

6.2 Small Business Week Showcase – Kick off email – Greg/Kim

E-mails were sent out yesterday to local business owners who have provided their e-mail address. There is also a post on the Municipality's Facebook page. Spotlights will be featured during Business Week. Ms. Rose will be taking pictures and businesses will have a chance to explain their stories and what they do. Preliminary discussions were had with North Bay Plastic Molders regarding a kick-off event on October 16th.

6.3 Internet – Discussion about Internet Hub Viability – Request from Councillor Lougheed

The Committee discussed the viability of the Turbo Hub in the community. Mr. Kirton will get information regarding threshold limits and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

6.4 Strategic Plan Update Report – Economic Development related initiatives

Mr. Kirton shared the "Growing Our Local Economy" page of the progress report with the Committee. They delayed items from 2020 are scheduled to be completed in 2021. Overall the Committee is on track to meeting their objectives.

6.5 Private Citizen Video – Astorville Old School Site

No discussion.

7. Action Items – None for this session

8. Ongoing/Unresolved/Inactive Items

8.1 Priority #1 (Internet)

8.2 Priority #2 (Update Economic Development Strategy) – Veronica, Angela, Greg – Update

The Committee will need to refocus on some priorities due to Mr. Koning's resignation.

8.3 Priority #3 (Review Policies) – Greg

Mr. Kirton is working on the policies when time permits.

8.4 Priority #4 (Farmers/Artisan Market) – Jake, Veronica, Greg

Visioning meeting scheduled for next Thursday at the Corbeil Park Hall.

8.5 Priority #5 (Light Industrial Park Feasibility) –Greg

The Phase II application will be formally submitted by the end of the week.

8.6 Priority #7 (New Business Welcome Package) – Steve T., Phil, Steve A.

The Business Welcome Package will hopefully follow with the new website.

8.7 Sub-committee (Centennial Committee Project) – Steve T., Steve A., Angela

The Committee is currently awaiting grant approval and meetings have been held off.

8.8 BizPal Program – Phil

8.9 Digital Mainstreet – Follow up on Phil’s Report

The Committee discussed the viability of items 8.8 and 8.9 of the Ongoing/Unresolved/Inactive Items and passed the following resolutions:

Motion No. 2020-23

Moved by Jake Lacourse

Seconded by Steve Austin

THAT the East Ferris Economic Development Committee approve the removal of Ongoing/Unresolved/Inactive Item No. 8.9 (Digital Mainstreet Program) due to the fact that the program requires a main street or downtown core, which the Municipality of East Ferris does not have.

CARRIED

Motion No. 2020-24

Moved by Jake Lacourse

Seconded by Steve Trahan

THAT the East Ferris Economic Development Committee approve the removal of Ongoing/Unresolved/Inactive Item No. 8.8 (BizPal Program) due to the fact that the Municipality now has access to a program on the new website that provides similar data to users.

CARRIED

9. General Follow Up/Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Paquette reminded the Committee of the BTIF (Business Technology Improvement Fund) and CTAF (COVID-19 Technology Adoption Fund) which are available to businesses. Mr. Kirton advised he has shared the funding information via the East Ferris Business Community Networking Facebook page and that the Municipality has applied for funding under the CTAF program.

Mr. Clouthier requested an update on the snowmobile trails. Councillor Trahan advised he has been in contact with a property owner and Mr. Sears. They will walk the potential site in October. Mr. Kirton has given Mr. Sears some mapping information. Mr. Paquette asked whether there were possible tax breaks for landowners who make their land available for snowmobile trails. Mr. Kirton will look into it and report back to the Committee.

After brief discussions, a resolution deferred from the last meeting was carried. The intention is to get clearer direction from Council on how to engage with potential investors in the future.

Motion No. 2020-25

Moved by Steve Austin

Seconded by Rod Clouthier

THAT the East Ferris Economic Development Committee recommends Council amend the Communications Policy to include more clear direction on how communication should take place between potential investors, municipal staff and representatives, Economic Development Committee members, and members of Council.

CARRIED

10. Adjournment

No. 2020-26

Moved by Claude Champagne

Seconded by Steven Trahan

That the Economic Development Committee adjourn at 1:53 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK

