



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Economic Development Committee Meeting of June 16th, 2021

PRESENT: Claude Champagne Steve Austin
Jake Lacourse Angela Knight van Schaayk
Veronica Mulligan Steven Trahan
Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning & Economic Development
Kari Hanselman, Recording Clerk

EXCUSED ABSENT: Rod Clouthier

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion No. 2021-08

Moved by Claude Champagne

Seconded by Steve Austin

THAT the draft agenda circulated to the Economic Development Committee dated the 16th day of June 2021 be hereby adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting Held on March 17th, 2021**

Motion No. 2021-09

Moved by Veronica Mulligan

Seconded by Claude Champagne

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee meeting held March 17th, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

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

5. **Chair's Comments**

Chair Lacourse thanked everyone for their time



6. Updates/New Business

6.1 East Ferris 2021 Digital Small Business Summit – Greg

The virtual digital small business summit was a success. Approximately 40 people attended. There were representatives from The Business Center, NECO, FedNor, NOHFC, BDC, and iiON and some meaningful connections were made.

6.1.1 2022 Tradeshow Preliminary Conversation – Greg/Steve

The Committee briefly discussed options for next year's tradeshow, including a potential RFP and the viability of another online event. The Committee will discuss further at the next meeting.

6.2 Conferences/Events – Angela

6.2.1 Northern Ontario Population Growth Forum

Ms. Knight van Schaayk shared with the Committee information she received at the Northern Ontario Population Growth Forum and the Data and Ontario's Northern Communities event which was put on by Northern Policy Institute. Northern Ontario seems to be doing better than our Southern neighbours. The information provided could be useful to Council when determining if certain developments suite the community.

6.2.2 Data and Ontario's Northern Communities

This item was discussed under 6.2.1

6.3 Major Project Updates

6.3.1 Medical Centre/Municipal Office – Steve T

Deputy Mayor Trahan advised the Medical Centre is moving forward. The space is being designed to host a few doctors, as well as space for other medical services. Deputy Mayor Trahan also advised that incorporating the new municipal office into the same building was not feasible.

6.3.2 Old School Astorville – Greg

Mr. Kirton has advised that talks with the owners about their plans are currently stalled while the owners evaluate their preferred development options. Property standards and safety is a concern and actions against the property owners are being considered.

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

Mr. Kirton has attended two meetings with a working group with the Municipality of Callander to discuss access to the property. He is giving a delegation to Callander



Council next week regarding the request for an entrance permit on Callander Drive. If access is granted, it is the intention of the municipality to move forward with background studies on the site. Mr. Kirton will update the Committee at the next meeting.

6.3.4 Netspectrum Fibre Project – Greg

Deferred to next meeting

6.3.5 MacEwen Gas Station Redevelopment

MacEwen plans to demolish and rebuild this year. They have all the required permits in progress and are ready to start.

6.3.6 Degagne Carpentry Relocation

Degagne Carpentry is planning to move their operations to a new location on Corbeil Road. They are running out of space at their current location, and this is a better spot for their shop.

6.4 Short Term Rental Policy – Greg

Mr. Kirton advised he has received some complaints about Airbnbs in the community. The Municipality does not currently have a policy dealing with short term rentals. These types of policies can be problematic due to enforcement issues. The advantages and disadvantages need to be weighed. The Committee will have a more in-depth discussion on the issue at the next meeting.

6.5 Northeast Ontario Tourism – Greg

The Municipality's membership for this year was refunded as we were not receiving any documentation during the period after the executive director left. There is now a new Executive Director. The Committee can look at joining again next year.

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

8.3 Priority #3 (Review Policies) – Greg

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

8.4.1 Postponed until 2022

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



The Committee did not have any updates on the above priority items.

9. General Follow Up/Roundtable Discussion

The Committee discussed Centennial events that will be taking place in August as well as Ms. Mulligan and her daughter's farming operations. Ms. Knight van Schaayk advised that the Committee overlooked electing a Chair and Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the year. The Committee will elect at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Motion No. 2021-10

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Veronica Mulligan

THAT the Economic Development Committee meeting adjourn at 2:14 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK