

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 6, 2017**

The Township of Rideau Lakes Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee held a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017 at the Municipal Office in Chantry, Ontario.

The following committee members were in attendance: Councillors Arie Hoogenboom, Bob Lavoie, Claire Gunnewiek Doug Good, and Mayor Ron Holman. Michael Dwyer, CAO, was also in attendance.

The Committee asked that several items be added to the agenda. The following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

RECOMMENDATION #1

Moved By: Doug Good
Seconded By: Ron Holman

To pass a Recommendation that the following items be added to the Agenda:

- 5.4 Hourly Trains
- 5.5 Ottawa Valley Trails
- 5.6 Hydro Rates
- 5.7 New Business Identification
- 5.8 eCottage Film

Carried:

RECOMMENDATION #2

Moved By: Doug Good
Seconded By: Ron Holman

That this Committee adopt the Agenda, as amended.

Carried:

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

Chairperson Lavoie asked if anyone had a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof regarding any of the applications and none was declared.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

Minutes of the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee Meeting held February 6, 2017 were distributed to the Committee. Chairperson Lavoie asked for any errors, omissions or questions. Councillor Hoogenboom noted a spelling error was found under the Small Home Communities agenda item.

The following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

RECOMMENDATION #3

Moved By: Arie Hoogenboom
Seconded By: Claire Gunnewiek

That this committee approve the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2017, as amended.

Carried:

NEW BUSINESS:

INVESTMENT READY SITE

Alison Merkley, Administrative Assistant reviewed the report which recommended staff development "Investment Ready Site" information sheets detailing the features of various commercial and industrial properties available for purchase.

The Committee discussed alterations they would like to see in regards to the Permitted Uses section and asked staff to prepare additional information sheets to present to the Committee.

After discussion, the following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

RECOMMENDATION #4

Moved By: Arie Hoogenboom
Seconded By: Doug Good

That the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee authorizes staff to develop "Investment Ready Site" information sheets when known sites become available for redevelopment or purchase and with the consent of the owners.

And further that staff identify Investment Ready Site properties and create information sheets to bring to the Committee.

Carried:

DELTA FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Mike Dwyer, CAO provided an overview of the presentation by Batawa residents late last month as part of the OMAFRA's First Impression program. The presenters had mostly positive comments about Delta and detailed the many assets and hospitality of the town.

Councillor Good recommended that the Committee sent a congratulatory letter to the Delta residents who organized and participated in the First Impression program.

FUNDING ABSTRACTS

Mike Dwyer, CAO summarized the rural infrastructure investment pro forma grant abstracts.

Mike Dwyer, CAO also provided a summary for the servicing innovation for small villages grant abstract in response to the November, 2016 decentralized services presentation. Mr. Dwyer stated that different

municipalities and agencies have offered their support and that grant funding will be sought to continue the project.

The Committee members discussed their support for the ideas.

After discussion, the following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

RECOMMENDATION #5

Moved By: Claire Gunnewiek
Seconded By: Doug Good

That the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee acknowledges and supports the funding abstracts and servicing innovation for small villages discussion.

Carried:

HOURLY TRAINS

Mayor Holman stated that an article was recently published in Hometown News regarding the possibility of having hourly trains from Smiths Falls to connecting cities. Mayor Holman also stated that an hourly train would be beneficial to Rideau Lakes and its residents and that the township should offer its support.

After discussion, the following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

RECOMMENDATION #6

Moved By: Ron Holman
Seconded By: Arie Hoogenboom

That staff be directed to contact Smiths Falls regarding the regional rail service and determine if support from Rideau Lakes would be beneficial and could be extended.

Carried:

OTTAWA VALLEY TRAILS

Mayor Holman stated that an article was recently published in Hometown News concerning the trail development between Lanark County and the Ottawa Valley. Mayor Holman stated that the township has multiple recreational trail assets and that funding should be sought from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to help with their regional development potential.

HYDRO RATES

Mayor Holman stated information he heard during a radio broadcast regarding the recently announced hydro rate cuts and specifically its potential impacts on seasonal residents. Mayor Holman stated that it would be prudent to await the detailed implementation document to ensure accuracy of any reports.

The Committee observed a 10 minute break.

NEW BUSINESS IDENTIFICATION

Councillor Good stated that a number of new businesses and ownerships have occurred this year and asked whether the township should create a program welcoming businesses into the area.

The Committee discussed the difficulty of identifying new businesses as many can be considered home based and may not advertise their business.

Councillor Hoogenboom stated that a township Business Retention and Expansion study (BR+E) would provide an updated list on existing businesses within Rideau Lakes.

Alison Merkley, Administrative Assistant, recommended that an Economic Development section be added in the next Fall/Winter Community Guide detailing how businesses can be listed on the Business Directory.

ECOTTAGE FILMS

Councillor Hoogenboom stated that the eCottage Films letter to Council should be discussed at this meeting.

The Committee members discussed the proposal.

BUSINESS ARISING:

BR+E

Mike Dwyer, CAO provided a verbal update concerning BR+E. He stated that the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG) is still in the process of finalizing UCLG's economic development budget and work plans and will advise the township when more details are finalized.

Mr. Dwyer also provided a verbal update concerning the Rideau Heritage Route which will be conducting a study on regional economic impact of the Rideau Canal which will be available to the township when completed. He stated that a large portion of the route is within the township and therefore any studies and reports would be to our benefit.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Alison Merkley, Administrative Assistant, provided a verbal update about the Business Recognition Program and provided a sample of the award plaque.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Alison Merkley, Administrative Assistant, provided an overview of the advertisement report.

The Committee discussed the previous and proposed ads and recommended that the calendar photo contest continue to be held to acquire more photos that showcase the township.

After discussion, the following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

RECOMMENDATION #7

Moved By: Arie Hoogenboom
Seconded By: Doug Good

That the Economic Development Ad Hoc recommends to Council that the proposed ads be accepted. And further that select ads be used for future advertising when deemed appropriate by the Committee and/or Council.

Carried:

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

The Committee requested that a review of the Committee and its mandate occur at a future meeting date. Members also requested an update concerning the Rideau Waterway Land Trust and that a letter from the Merrickville & District Chamber of Commerce be a correspondence item at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chair declared the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting.

Bob Lavoie
Chairperson

Michael Dwyer
Secretary