

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 5, 2018

The Township of Rideau Lakes Economic Development Committee held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 5, 2018 at the Municipal Office in Chantry, Ontario.

The following committee members were in attendance: Councillors Bob Lavoie, Cathy Livingston, Mayor Ron Holman, and public representative Sharen Symondson. Councillors Arie Hoogenboom and Claire Gunnewiek were absent with prior notice. Public representative Jennifer Campbell was absent. Michael Dwyer, CAO, was also in attendance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

RECOMMENDATION #1

Moved By: Cathy Livingston

Seconded By: Ron Holman

That this Committee adopt the Agenda, as submitted.

Carried:

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

Chairperson Lavoie asked if anyone had a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof and none were declared.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

Minutes of the December 4, 2017 Economic Development Committee Meeting were distributed to the Committee. Chairperson Lavoie asked for any errors, omissions or questions and none were heard.

The following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

RECOMMENDATION #2

Moved By: Cathy Livingston

Seconded By: Ron Holman

That this committee approve the Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2017, as submitted.

Carried:

GUEST SPEAKER:

LISA SEVERSON & JIM PINE, EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL NETWORK (EORN)

Lisa Severson, Communications/Stakeholder Relations Officer for EORN, and Jim Pine, CAO for Hastings County attended the meeting to discuss EORN and its past achievements and future goals. They stated that since its establishment in 2009, EORN has been involved with \$90+ of new investments, 5,500km of new fibre core cables, and 63 fibered business parks across its 50,000sq kilometre area. They also stated that the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG) has experienced \$24 in return for every \$1 it contributed.

Ms. Severson and Mr. Pine provided an overview of the progress made in UCLG and that 94.5% of households in UCLG have up to 10Mbps coverage. They also stated that the demand for improved bandwidth and speed continues to grow over 50% each year meaning that continuing efforts are being made to achieve greater connectivity.

Ms. Severson and Mr. Pine reviewed the upcoming cell project focused on increasing mobile coverage and capacity as 18% of the EORN region does not have any cell coverage, and 16% has inadequate coverage.

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

RECOMMENDATION #3

Moved By: Cathy Livingston

Seconded By: Ron Holman

That the Economic Development Committee thank Lisa Severson, Communications/Stakeholder Relations Officer for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network and Jim Pine of Hastings County for their presentation.

Carried:

The Committee observed a 10 minute break.

JOHN LOERCHNER, OWNER OF CABINSCAPE

John Loerchner, owner of Cabinscape, presented about his company's success in offering tiny cabin rentals to provide secluded, environmentally friendly tourist lodging. Mr. Loerchner stated that their guests drive an average of 3 hours to stay at one of their two cabins which are quickly booked, due to the rise in popularity of tiny homes and off-grid living.

Mr. Loerchner stated that he is working closely with the area's conservation authorities to potentially provide a tiny cabin along, or near one of the established trails. He continued to state his interest in forming a partnership with the municipality to obtain the necessary approvals and for support of the potential project as a whole.

Chair Bob Lavoie summarized the Committee's past discussions about tiny homes, and inquired about building home requirements and insurance. Mr. Loerchner stated that the cabins are built to code and that insurance coverage is provided through the booking agency.

Malcolm Norwood, Associate Planner, asked if Cabinscape has agreements with other municipalities about using public lands. Mr. Loerchner stated the company does not have any agreements with municipalities at this time, but is interested in partnering with municipalities and is flexible with the duration of the agreement if a municipality wants to have a trial period before committing to something more long term.

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

RECOMMENDATION #4

Moved By: Cathy Livingston

Seconded By: Ron Holman

That the Economic Development Committee thank John Loerchner, owner of Cabinscape for his presentation.

Carried:

ACTION LISTING:

Mike Dwyer, CAO, provided a brief overview of the Action Listing items and their progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

PORTLAND HALL & HARBOUR REDEVELOPMENT

Mike Dwyer, CAO, provided a verbal summary of the January 30th visionary workshop that was attended by thirty members of the public. Mr. Dwyer stated that the event was well received and led to many positive discussions that will be researched and potentially implemented in future improvement efforts.

Sharen Symondson, Public Representative, asked if wifi and signage visible from the water are at the harbour. Mike Dwyer stated that wifi is not present at the harbour but at the nearby library. Mr. Dwyer also stated that waterfront signage is not in place, however discussions about placing a large community visitor map are taking place.

ROMA CONFERENCE

Mike Dwyer, CAO, provided a brief overview of the ROMA Conference and its session.

INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH STRUCTURE

Mayor Ron Holman stated that the Ontario Plowman's Association has reached out to municipalities seeking interest in hosting the International Plowing Match. Mayor Holman stated that the Committee should be aware of the possibility that the event will be held in the surrounding area.

TARGET MARKETING – LE BOAT

Alison Merkley, Administrative Assistant, reviewed the report regarding the target marketing given to Le Boat about the communities along the Rideau Canal system. The information outlined the assets found in the communities, as well as some of the activities Le Boat guests could partake in. Ms. Merkley stated that the materials were well received by Le Boat, and that the company plans on using the photos for social media promotions, and share the community information with their guests.

Ms. Merkley stated that the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve have expressed interest in receiving similar information and that a materials will be circulated to them later this month.

BUSINESS ARISING:

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Alison Merkley, Administrative Assistant, provided an overview of the changes made to the draft Community Profile and stated that the document is now complete and ready for circulation.

The following recommendation was duly moved and seconded:

RECOMMENDATION #5

Moved By: Cathy Livingston

Seconded By: Ron Holman

That the Economic Development Committee recommends to the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes that the Community Profile be accepted and available to the public.

Carried:

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee discussed the correspondence items.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

The Committee did not have any additional items to include on the next meeting's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chair declared the Economic Development Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting.

Bob Lavoie
Chairperson

Michael Dwyer
Secretary