

**SOUTH ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE/
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER COMMITTEE**

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2014

The regular meeting of the South Almaguin Highlands Economic Development Committee (SAHED) and the Community Development Officer Committee (CDO) was held at the Burk's Falls Municipal Office on Monday May 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Councillor Lewis Hodgson, Councillor Rosalind Hall, John Finley, Wendy Whitwell, Tom Tota, Willy Hollett, Louisa Moffat, David Gray, Anna Branch, Andrew Farnsworth. Regrets: Councillor Rod Blakelock.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Investment Readiness

John Finley presented the Committee with the final Investment Readiness study and the accompanying Community Profile, with digital and paper copies provided to David Gray and each municipality. Mr. Finley recommended that both documents be made available on each municipal website. The Committee agreed to post the document on the SAHED page and to have the Township pages link to that central copy to better facilitate future edits.

Mr. Finley will wait for feedback from the three Councils before incorporating the results of the Investment Readiness study into the SAHED Economic Development Plan. Mr. Finley recommended that the Committee review and prioritize the recommendations in the market study.

Community Guide

David Gray reported on the Community Guide progress, noting that the deadline for advertising revenue is Friday May 26, 2014. Content must be submitted by May 23, 2014. The Committee discussed several opportunities for new funding. David will follow up for the next meeting.

Almaguin Careers and Trades Day (ACT)

David reported on ACT 2014, held at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School on April 30, 2014. The event was a success, with great student attendance and enthusiasm. More work will need to be done for 2015 in order to increase attendance by non-student community members.

Festival of Almaguin Businesses (FAB) 2014

Tom Tota updated the Committee on the Chamber of Commerce's progress with FAB14. There has been a lot of interest so far on behalf of area businesses, and the Chamber will continue to rent booth space for the May 24 event. Many volunteers are still needed for traffic control, parking and general setup.

Community Surveys

There are still a few surveys being submitted to the Township offices each week. David will tally the results in the coming weeks and work with Andrew Farnsworth to derive meaningful statistics from the surveys. The Committee will publicize the results on the website, and it discussed a possible press release through the Almaguin News.

Food Security

David discussed the Rural Active Living Assessment and some of its recommendations, including “share the road” signs and other initiatives to support cycling in our community. David will follow up with Burk’s Falls Council to discuss action items from the assessment.

New Business

none

Next Meeting

June 9, 2014 at 6:00 pm, Burk’s Falls Municipal Office

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, Anna Branch. (Carried)