

BURKS FALLS AND AREA COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (BACED)

MINUTES October 2, 2017

The regular meeting of the Burks Falls and Area Community Economic Development Committee (BACED) was held at the Burk's Falls Council Chambers on October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Councillor Rod Blakelock; Councillor Rosalind Hall; Councillor Lewis Hodgson; Tom Tota; Randy Cox; Willy Hollett; Denis Sabourin; Nicky Kunkel; Wendy Whitwell; John Theriault; Leanne Fetterley; and Dave Gray.

Regrets: Ron Begin (FedNor) and Carole Mantha (Ministry of Northern Development and Mines).

Dave Gray called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Wendy Whitwell introduced her replacement to sit on this committee: John Theriault, Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk at Armour Township.

MINUTES

Moved by Denis Sabourin, seconded by Randy Cox be it resolved that the BACED committee accept the minutes from the regular meeting August 14, 2017. (Carried)

Moved by Denis Sabourin, seconded by Rosalind Hall be it resolved that the BACED committee accept the minutes from the special meeting August 29, 2017. (Carried)

CEDO REPORT & DISCUSSION

Wayfinding Signage

Installation was interrupted because not enough fasteners were shipped. The contractor has now received the additional materials and installation has resumed. The signs are receiving very positive feedback.

Digital Sign

The concrete base is being installed. Production of the sign requires 8 to 10 weeks from receipt of the 50% deposit by the manufacturer. There was a delay forwarding the deposit so this will determine the final completion date for the sign. The digital portion of the sign can be managed using software installed on up to 3 computers. The user accesses the sign using WIFI from any location; it is not necessary to be in the immediate vicinity of the sign.

The life-span of the sign was discussed and it was noted that the panel is built as a series of modules which can be replaced as necessary. It is anticipated that the useful life of the digital portion will be 10+ years.

Regional Economic Development

The Phase One Fednor application is drafted and will be submitted soon. Much of the Phase 2 application is also in preliminary draft form. The working group and stakeholder group continue to meet to move this initiative forward.

Target Sector Analysis

The consultant has been contracted and a launch meeting will be held on October 12th. Representatives from all three Councils and the Chamber will be invited to this meeting.

3R Volunteer Program

The recruitment event planned for October 14th has not garnered many registrations from supportive organizations and will be postponed to a future date.

Website Update

The back-end will be launched soon so that staff can begin developing content and fine-tuning the site.

Business Development Events

There was a discussion about the anticipated attendance at the 13 Ways Event and the potential confusion about the expectation for the meal available at the event. Potential caterers were proposed and there was a discussion regarding the possibility of licensing the event.

Staff to proceed to contract a caterer to provide a buffet dinner at the event subject to budgetary constraints and availability of a suitable caterer. Councillor Hodgson did not contribute to the discussion as he noted a pecuniary interest relative to one of the caterers proposed.

Highlander Brew Co. will be contacted to investigate licensing the event. Councillor Hodgson declared a pecuniary interest and did not vote on this motion. Denis Sabourin was opposed to the motion (see resolution below).

The proposed budget is based on 100 people attending, but it was agreed that additional funds should be accessed if required to accommodate up to 150 people. The maximum number of attendees will be 150 (see resolution below).

The revised schedule and topics for the additional small business events were reviewed.

OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

RBC Burk's Falls Branch Closing

There was a discussion about the impact on the community that this closure will have and staff were directed to write a letter as per the resolution below. It was noted that there is a public meeting scheduled for October 16th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Arena.

Small Business Tax Changes

There are serious implications for small business corporations as a result of proposed Federal tax reforms. Staff to compile information and draft a letter of opposition to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Bike Racks

Committee discussed the Bike Share program in Magnetawan as well as the bike racks installed in Burk's Falls. In advance of implementing a Bike Share program in Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson, more information is required to gain best practices from other programs and understand potential liability issues.

Note that there will be a free Cycle Tourism Workshop hosted by Ontario by Bike and Explorers' Edge at the Arena on October 12th at 10:30 a.m.

Near North Enviro-Education Centre

Willy Hollett reported on the grand opening event and highlighted the potential for future partnerships with the organization as well as event space.

Councillor Hall also noted that the event space at Highlander Brewery can be booked for free by local members of the community for both public and private events.

RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Willy Hollett, seconded by Rod Blakelock be it resolved that staff contact Highlander Brew Co. to investigate the possibility of serving their products at the 13 Ways Event and if permissible and agreed upon, move forward to book this activity with the condition that BACED will not be responsible for any licensing or financial commitment. (Carried)

Moved by Lewis Hodgson, seconded by Rosalind Hall be it resolved that staff may access up to \$1000.00 from the contingency fund line in the BACED budget if necessary to account for a potential increase in anticipated attendees at the 13 Ways event. (Carried)

Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Denis Sabourin be it resolved that staff write a letter to RBC indicated that the closure of the Burk's Falls branch will have a negative impact on the local economy; and further that the letter be forwarded to the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada. (Carried)

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 13th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Lewis Hodgson that the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m. (Carried)