



MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (EDC)
Thursday, January 21, 2021
7:00 pm
Township Video-Conference

Present:

Angela McMonagle – Chair
Ruben Rindinella- Vice Chair
Janet Horner- Mayor
Jeanette McFarlane
Julie Pollock
David Spencer
Diana Morris
Tracey Atkinson – Secretary
Dustin Early – Committee Coordinator

Absent with Regrets: Ernie Lynch

1. Call to Order - The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm
2. Approval of Past Minutes

Moved by Spencer and Seconded by Rindinella

THAT the Minutes dated October 15, 2020 be approved. Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

4. Delegations

Rural Economic Development Grant – GrantMatch; Lynda Rickard

Ms. Rickard from GrantMatch presented an information report on the Rural Economic Development Grant and how it relates to further business opportunities. She stressed the deadline is February 1st as well informing the Committee that letters of support would be needed in a week, as well as quotes, and a project budget.

The following project ideas were discussed:

Local tree growing partnership planting trees for 50th anniversary Earth Day, electrical vehicle charging network, online business directory, Mulmur gateway signage.

Committee Member Morris informed the Committee that the Dufferin Board of Trade received a grant to work on a County business directory and invited Mulmur to use the system to save money on their own directory.

GrantMatch provided information to council including:

The history of the company, the rebrand from Fairtax, how the fees are structured, what grant amount makes sense to write for, do they write grants for small business and examples of RED grants GrantMatch have written.

As well the question was asked “Does RED cover recreational infrastructure?”. This opened the discussion to what should be the best approach for grants such as finding grants for a project vs finding projects for grant.

It was decided by the Committee that they are not ready for a grant this time around. The Committee will think about future grants with the advice of GrantMatch.

Secretary Atkinson informed the Committee that she is waiting on Karissa Downey to get back to her regarding signage.

Member Morris will be contacting the local municipalities shortly to reach out to businesses for the County business directory. Mulmur Staff can coordinate with the Committee to help with the business directory.

5. Current Business

5.1 Cycling Project Update – Chair McMonagle

Chair McMonagle provided an update on the cycling routes presenting the Frank Cowan Report presented to Council December 9, 2020. A discussion ensued regarding the motion and direction of Council and by the Road Safety Committee. Additionally, Member Horner provided an update from the County Planning, EDC, Tourism Committee regarding bike trails being a priority for the County in the future. There was a discussion on what ideas can the committee think about to bolster a Dufferin County lead bike trail program. Some of the ideas discussed were: Rest stops on bike routes with picnic tables and garbage bins, vending refreshments through food trucks & kiosks, a central bicycle hub and running large full-blown cycling events.

5.2 Broadband Survey

The Broadband Survey results were received and presented to the Committee by Secretary Atkinson. There was a discussion regarding where residents can go if they are not in the plan. There was a brief discussion on alternative internet options.

5.3 Strategic Plan (Pollock Table)

Committee Member Pollock presented her Strategic Plan Report highlighting the mandates of the Economic Development Committee.

There was a discussion regarding the strategic plan implementation at the Special Council Meeting February 17. Additionally, there was a discussion on making it part of the Strategic Plan to re-evaluate previous strategic plan goals as part of the process. There was further discussion regarding planning and its relation to the Strategic Plan. This included discussions on a current application in the pre-consultation phase for adding homes, the Township can open more medical and health care related opportunities through zoning, pursuing developers to provide more studies on servicing through the Official Plan, and getting an uptick in second dwelling interest.

Also, the Committee discussed providing greater services to an aging population as part of the strategic plan. Secretary Atkinson mentioned that this was supported by the responses from the recreation study showing a greater need for aging recreational activities.

6. Information Items

6.1 Canadian Agricultural Partnership Grant – Moving Mulmur Farmers Market (Verbal update)

Secretary Atkinson provided an update on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Grant.

6.2 Mansfield Ski Club Development (Verbal Update)

Secretary Atkinson provided an update on the Mansfield Ski Club. A discussion ensued regarding the upcoming public meeting February 3rd at Council. There was a discussion regarding how the project lines up with Mulmur's ideals and residents needs through the Official Plan as a recreation area for Mulmur.

It was encouraged to members and all residents to raise their concerns with Council regarding the application to the public meeting February 3rd.

6.3 Dufferin County Labour Market (December 2020)

Member Morris clarified the data from Dufferin County Labour Market regarding the uptick of labour numbers in October relating to the end of the CERB program.

7. Items for Future Meetings/Meeting Date & Time

Dufferin County Economic Development Committee Meeting info. Chair McMonagle and Member Morris will attend.

Future items included: Business issues surveys results from Dufferin County, future grant projects, strategic plan implementation and the cycling project.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Primrose Business Park

9. Adjournment

Moved by McFarlane and Seconded by Rindinella

THAT the meeting adjourns at 8:51 pm. To meet again on March 18th, May 20th, July 15th, September 16th and November 18th at 7pm. Carried.

Approved by:

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Chair

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Secretary