

**Economic Development and Business Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Township of Selwyn
Zoom meeting**

Present: Andy Mitchell, Mayor for Selwyn Township
Sherry Senis, Deputy Mayor for Selwyn Township
Pat Smith, Paluski Boats & Adventure Outfitters
Donna Rork, Cottage Toys
Troy Percy, Napa Auto Parts
Gabi Dragomir, PKED, Rural Economic Development Officer

Regrets: Fred Koster, Bridgenorth Business Association
Rick Hickson, R&J Machine
Diana Carter, Style Boutique
Erin McLean, McLean Berry Farms

Staff: Leisha Newton, Economic Development Coordinator (Acting)
Angela Chittick, Manager of Community & Corporate Services

Chair, Andy Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

1. Deputations and/or Invited Persons

2. Minutes

The minutes of May 17, 2021 were reviewed for information purposes.

Moved by: Troy Percy; Seconded by: Pat Smith

That the EDBC minutes of May 17, 2021 be received for information.

Carried.

3. Question Period

None.

4. Correspondence for Discussion and/or Decision

Information Items

The following information items were received for information purposes:

- a) WDB
 - Eye on the Labour Market, May 2021
 - Employer One Survey Report 2021
- b) Windsor Star - Food growers issue urgent plea to preserve Ontario's shrinking farmland base
- c) EORN Cell Project, Frequently Asked Questions
- d) Community Safety & Well-Being Plan (Peterborough City & County)
 - Presentation to Council
 - Interim Report (June 2021)
 - There seem to be missing pieces, not mentioned in the plan e.g. infrastructure is not mentioned and there are limited facilities
 - There needs to be front line resources to address mental health issues rather than having police deal with it
 - Police and correctional staff need more mental health training
 - i. Kids need rehabilitation, and more infrastructure needs to be implemented
 - ii. Mental health supports cost too much for the average person to manage – need more universal and affordable supports
 - iii. There needs to be supports for the professionals, due to burnout
- e) County Council Update on the Official Plan
 - Report OP Update – Focus on Growth
 - Report OP Update – Focus on Economic Development
- f) County Council Special Meeting, Official Plan: Employment Lands, June 10, 2021
 - Growth Analysis related to Employment Lands (County of Peterborough)
 - PKED Regional Economic Development Strategy
 - County of Frontenac Alternative Servicing Options
 - The committee inquired about the link between the Economic Development OP Report and the Alternative Servicing Options.
 - Planning philosophy for the province is to drive residential growth to settlement areas with servicing, as a result severing a lot for family members is becoming more difficult.

- The County has hired a consultant to develop the growth analysis that will guide the Official Plan decisions.
- g) Outlook of Rural Businesses and the Impacts from COVID-19 Report (Quarter 1, 2021, Stats Canada)
 - Webinar, July 6 1-2pm
- h) MakerSpace in Selwyn
 - Ange provided a summary of the announcement.
 - The committee inquired how the programs/equipment will be accessed. The MakerSpace will be open by Spring 2022, will be available to any interested parties, and the program will be managed by the Lakefield Library.
- i) Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force Report (Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries)

Discussion Items

- j) Lakefield Campground Study Council Meeting Update
 - Andy provided an update on the status of the Lakefield Campground Study
 - At the last council meeting, the consultant recommended that Council consider ORCA operate the campground with some modifications
 - There is another Council meeting planned for July 19, 2021, where there will be additional public presentations and feedback and Council will decide how to proceed.
 - EDBC had the option to have an in-person representative at Council on July 19, 2021. The committee agreed that it would not be necessary and the feedback that was provided at the June Council meeting was an appropriate response.
- k) An update on staff changes in Planning & Building department
 - Chris Tassone, Bylaw Officer started two weeks ago
 - Per Lundberg, Planner started today (June 28)
 - Mark Chuang, Development Approvals Technician starting July 14
 - The new Permit Intake Technician will be announced soon
 - There will also be new front counter staff announced soon (contract positions)
 - We will invite them to attend our September meeting to introduce themselves

5. Reports

6. Other, New and Unfinished Business Reports

- a) PKED Report – Verbal Update - Gabi Dragomir
 - Business Count in Selwyn will be conducted from July 26 – August 6. So far it has been more successful than last year
 - Both the Starter Company Plus and Summer Company Plus programs are being conducted right now. There are no Selwyn businesses in either program.
 - The O'de Piitaanemaan Visitor's Pledge will be launched on July 6, 2021
 - PKED is still promoting the Kawartha Farm Fresh, and local foods as well as trying to get more membership
- b) Business News/Updates – All Committee Members
 - Sherry:
 - The Chocolate Rabbit will be under new management. Elaine & Scott Webster (Chef at Viamede) along with their family will take over August 1, 2021.
 - JBS Surveyors has moved into a new space on the Lakefield Highway
 - Kate's Medical Foot Care Services has opened in Bridgenorth beside the Home Hardware
 - Bloomfield Charcuteries is a new business as well
- c) CIP/Township Report – Verbal update – Leisha
 - The township was notified that the LINK funding has been extended until March 2025
 - The province is moving into Stage 2 on June 30, so businesses are preparing for the transition
 - We have exhausted all of the available CIP funds for 2021 year. Council will be presented with an update at the next Council meeting in July. There were 23 CIP approved applications in 2021.
 - LINK Bus:
 - The best week was been over 60 on the Lakefield/Curve Lake route, over 30 on the Bridgenorth/Ennismore route. On average, we are getting 30-40 riders per week on the Lakefield/Curve Lake route, and 12-15 on the Bridgenorth/Ennismore route. We are building ridership right now, and we expect that ridership will increase as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and comfort levels improve as well as students going back to school. Free rides have been offered for the month of June, but we will start to charge soon.

We hope that business owners and residents will continue to share information about it.

- There are flag stops along the route where riders can flag the bus when they would like to get on the bus.
 - There was an inquiry about what amount of ridership is required to make it sustainable? Ange will distribute statistics and the maps to the committee following the meeting.
 - In Lakefield, one of the hanging baskets is blocking the bus stop sign outside of Tragically Hip. Ange will address this with the township staff.
 - Ange will send the link to the LINK schedule, and we will provide additional maps to the downtown businesses to provide to customers, residents and visitors
- Sherry Boyce-Found (Kawartha Chamber):
 - Sherry requested that Sherry Boyce-Found join the meeting from the gallery.
 - Sherry Boyce-Found announced that she will be retiring from the Kawartha Chamber at the end of the year. She will be working part time, starting July 12, 2021 and focusing on strategic planning projects as outlined by the Board.
 - The EDBC wished her well and Andy thanked her for all that she has done for the community and the businesses in Selwyn.

d) Invitation for Guests

- We will invite the new staff from the Planning & Building Department to the next meeting to introduce themselves

7. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Moved by: Pat Smith; Second by: Donna Rork

- That the meeting of June 28th, 2021 be adjourned.

Carried.

Next Meeting

- The next EDBC meeting will be held on **Monday, September 27th, 2021** at **6:00 p.m.** using the zoom platform.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.