



# Committee Minutes

## Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee

October 18, 2022 – 8:30 AM

The Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee met on the above date through electronic means with the following members in attendance:

Present: Councillors Keaveney, Boddy, Bordignon, Carleton, Hutchinson, Woodbury, McQueen, and Warden Hicks; Members John Kurvink, Ashley Chapman, Dr. Arra, Brian Davenport, and Dave Shorey

Regrets: Member Steacy Den Haan

### Staff

Present: Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture; Scott Taylor, Manager of Planning Services; Steve Furness, Manager Economic Development; Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer; Alison Theodore, Economic Development Officer; Courtney Miller, Business Enterprise Manager; Jacinda Rudolph, Economic Development Officer; Courtney Miller, Business Enterprise Manager; Olivia Yale, Digital Communications Specialist; Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk/Legislated Coordinator

## Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

## Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## Reports

### EDTC-ED-16-22 Investment Strategy Agri-Food Mission Strategy

Steve Furness presented to the Committee regarding the County's implementation of the investment and agri-food mission strategy. The presenter noted supporting funding,

the current focus on the agri-food sector to increase awareness and understanding of current opportunities, and future exploration of the clean energy sector. Further, Savanna Myers highlighted the strategy's focus on business retention and expansion as the drivers of investment attraction.

In response to questions from the Committee, Steve Furness spoke about business analysis, pre-qualified meetings with investors at trade shows, funding, and the link between tourism attraction and local food. Additionally, staff discussed opportunities to invest in supply chain gaps, such as the demand for Canadian strawberries. Staff also noted inquiries related to the difference in taxation and administration for cider versus beer and the impact on agri-tourism.

*ED05-22* Moved by: Councillor Woodbury      Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

**That report EDTC-ED-10-22 be received and the Investment Attraction Strategy be received for information.**

Carried

## Roundtable Discussion

## Other Business

### Sydenham Campus and Business Enterprise Centre Verbal Update

Steve Furness presented an update on the Sydenham Campus, highlighting development of the Fab Lab and growing interest in the Lab along with a tenant overview and community partnerships. The presenter commented on an upcoming campus tour with area schoolboards and increased events. Courtney Miller shared an update on the Business Enterprise Centre initiatives, including the launch of the Digital Service Squad and Youth Makers Market in December.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff discussed 2022 efforts to mitigate utility expenses and future capital improvements and feasibility assessments to increase energy efficiency.

### Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership Verbal Update

Jacinda Rudolph reported on the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership, noting the County is halfway through a five-year federally funded program. The presenter described the support and resources provided to community stakeholders.

The Committee heard a discussion about support for international students to improve their student experience and encourage integration and retention in Grey County, including locating housing, culturally focused programming, and deepening community connections.

## Climate Change Action Plan – Going Green in Grey Verbal Update

Randy Scherzer presented an update on implementing the Climate Change Action Plan and Going Green in Grey strategy and highlighted outreach and engagement, such as the October 15 tree planting at the County Administration Building. Further, the presenter reviewed the electric vehicle charging network strategy and green house gas reduction efforts.

## Planning Project Verbal Update

Scott Taylor reported on recent Planning initiatives, including implementing the Age-Friendly Community Strategy and passing Official Plan Amendment No. 11, as amended. Further, the presenter spoke about Planning tools to support affordable housing and the study of data related affordable thresholds in the County.

## Next Meeting Dates

To Be Determined

## Adjournment

On motion by Councillors Hutchinson and Carleton, the Committee adjourned at 9:46 AM.

Shirley Keaveney, Chair