



Committee Minutes

Economic Development Advisory Committee September 25, 2015 – 7:30 a.m.

The Economic Advisory Committee met on the above date at the Grey County Administrative Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Don Lewis, Ashley Chapman, Councillor Barb Clumpus, Karen Ferri, Warden Kevin Eccles, Councillor Arlene Wright, Lance Thurston

Regrets: Brian Davenport, Lynda Bumstead, Marion Lougas

Staff

Present: Sharon Vokes, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Bryan Plumstead, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism; Meredith Bowers, Economic Development Officer; Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer; and Mary Jane Hills, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

This is the first meeting of the new Economic Development Advisory Committee for Grey County since County Council approved its reconstitution at its June 2, 2015 meeting and as outlined in report CCR-PCD-13-15.

Councillor Clumpus recommended that Don Lewis carry on in the position of Chair for this Committee until the end of 2015. Don Lewis agreed to do so, called the meeting to order, and welcomed those attending

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Review of Report CCR-PCD-13-15 and Terms of Reference

Mr. Plumstead briefly reviewed the report and took the group through the items outlined under the Terms of Reference. The term for the Committee and its public volunteer members was discussed as it was not outlined in the document. The consensus was for the committee structure to be reviewed in five years when the strategy is scheduled to be updated.

Review of Report CCR-PCD-25-15

Mr. Plumstead, Ms. Bowers and Ms. Markowitz took the committee members through the Action/Implementation Plan that was created over the last few months in order to fulfil the Made in Grey Economic Development Strategy adopted by Grey County Council in April, 2015.

The Action Plan is extensive and is broken down under eight headings:

- becoming investment ready
- creating a business friendly environment
- ensuring key infrastructure is in place
- developing Grey's workforce
- better communicating and marketing Grey's greatness
- tourism
- local food
- agriculture and farms

Each heading includes actions to be undertaken, descriptions of the work to be done, identifies the lead and partners for the action, and the measurements, and timelines for each action. The entire plan was reviewed. The final Action Plan will be taken to the Planning and Community Development Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

It should be noted that staff are already moving forward with the actions outlined in the plan, as there is a need to act on many of these as soon as possible.

Other Business

The group discussed the need to have dialogue with the Bluewater District School Board in order to understand what schools may be slated for downsizing or closure in the near future, and if there are ways for the municipalities to help fill these buildings with other services such as libraries, social services, public health, etc. in order to keep the buildings in use by the communities. It was believed that the Ministry of Education has not yet released the information on school closures to the affected Boards of Education.

Next Meeting Dates

The next Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting will be held Friday, December 11, 2015 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at this same location.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Economic Development Advisory Committee
September 25, 2015

Don Lewis, Chair