



Committee Minutes

Economic Development Advisory Committee

June 23, 2016 – 7:30 AM

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

Present: Warden Barfoot; Lynda Bumstead; Councillor Clumpus; Brian Davenport; Karen Ferri; Don Lewis; Marion Lougas; and Councillor McQueen

Regrets: Ashley Chapman; Lance Thurston

Staff Present: Bryan Plumstead, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism; Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer and Recording Secretary; Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Sharon Vokes, County Clerk/Director of Council Services; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning, Geoff Hogan, Director of Information Technology; and Ashleigh Weeden, Project Lead, Connected County Initiative

Others Present: Councillor Ardiel; Councillor Fosbrooke; and Tobiah Abrahamson (student)

Call to Order

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:33 AM.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by: Councillor McQueen

Seconded by: Councillor Clumpus

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee agenda dated June 23, 2016 be adopted as presented.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee dated April 7, 2016

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council on May 3, 2016.

Official Plan Update – Recolour Grey

Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning for Grey County engaged the group in discussions surrounding the Recolour Grey County Official Plan Update. Grey County is currently reviewing its Official Plan, as is required at least every five years at the County level. The new County Plan is to be completed in 2017. While an Official Plan is not a law, it does lead to enforceable by-laws. Municipalities have official plans for settlement areas, but often leave rural areas to the County's Official Plan.

The County looks at many sources for input on its direction when making changes to its Official Plan. One of those sources is the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Discussions took place on several topics including small lot diversified use, ensuring the County's Official Plan is in line with the provincial guidelines, ensuring community engagement in the plan, and the challenges in being business friendly to both small niche local food operations and large scale farming operations,

Ms. Wingrove spoke about the Countryside Mayors Alliance that was created in the Halton-Peel area for urban-rural tensions and funded by the province. She will follow up with more information on this alliance at the next Committee meeting.

Planning Advisory Committee Discussion

On July 31, 2016 Bill 73 will come into effect. One new requirement is the establishment of a mandatory Planning Advisory Committee to provide high level oversight at the County level. This Committee was asked to consider filling this role rather than forming a whole new advisory group. There was no opposition to this idea and Mr. Scherzer will prepare a revised draft Terms of Reference for the next meeting so that workload requirements are understood. Other municipalities are considering planning subcommittee meetings taking place two to four times annually.

Business Retention & Expansion Overview (BR&E)

Ms. Wingrove led the discussion on the provincial BR&E review of surveys from rural areas across Ontario. Conclusions show that in rural Ontario the vast majority of businesses are locally owned and owner operated, have a single location with between one and five employees. Their markets are primarily local and regional. County efforts should be made to engage with local businesses that as the foundation of the local economy and then focus on helping these businesses expand from local to regional and beyond in scope.

Mr. Plumstead gave a review of local BR&E projects along with shared findings, which largely mirrored provincial findings. Feedback from local economic development officers on where the County's efforts could support local BR&E initiatives was brought forward and discussed for direction purposes. Youth retention was a common thread in the resulting discussions including school board programs, dual credit programs, transportation, housing, culture and lifestyle. Ms. Wingrove spoke to a Community Investment Readiness Self-Assessment checklist as a useful tool for identifying gaps and effectiveness of existing processes. It was suggested this tool be taken to the Economic Development Working Group for further work on investment readiness.

Staff Update

A report has been accepted by the Planning and Community Development Committee on a proposed change to the vacant Economic Development Office position and new projects person position. The report looks at changing these two positions into one position of a Manager specifically for Economic Development. Tourism staff will continue to work under the guidance of the Tourism Manager.

Mr. Hogan spoke about the recent work at various levels of government undertaken for the South Western Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project.

Grey County is launching a new document system next week called Alfresco to replace Grey Docs.

Ashleigh Weeden and Kim Wingrove spoke about the recent Intelligent Community Summit and the insight that Grey County is experiencing the same obstacles in internet provider sharing as other areas in this Country and around the World.

Philly Markowitz updated the Committee on recent Saints and Sinners events, Regional Economic Development Funding for a local food strategy, and the Ag 4.0 conference planned for this fall.

Next Meeting Dates

It was suggested that the September meeting become a joint meeting with the Tourism Advisory Committee. A poll will be sent out to Committee members to establish the best meeting date and time.

On motion by Councillor McQueen, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Don Lewis, Chair