

A meeting of the Mahone Bay Economic Development Committee was held on Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Present:

Councillor Chia-Kangata (Chair)
Annette St-Onge
Richard Johnson
Jim Wentzell (CAO)
Kelly Redden, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Councillor Joseph Feeney

Introduction of Committee Members

The meeting began with a round of introductions.

Discussion – Terms of Reference of the Committee

The Committee reviewed the draft Terms of Reference from 9 years ago. Mr. Johnson passed out copies of a Terms of Reference document that he drafted. The group went over the Committee's original terms of reference and discussed what was still relevant. It was agreed that the group would work toward combining the relevant points in the Committee's original terms of reference with Mr. Johnson's Draft. Town staff will complete the rough edits and forward both documents, by the end of the week, to all Committee members for their input. It was agreed that the document could be completed through electronic communications.

The Mahone Bay Environment Study

Copies of the Mahone Bay Environment Study completed in 2015, were circulated to Committee members. The committee discussed the recommendations that came of this study and which pieces were still relevant.

Strategic Work Plan

Committee members discussed the Strategic Work Plan and which pieces of the document were still relevant. It was agreed that staff would update the work plan by eliminating pieces that are no longer relevant and adding: development of a map of commercially zoned properties within the Town of Mahone Bay, development of a Communications Strategy and volunteer recruitment and placement. This updated work plan will be sent to Councillor Chia-Kangata who will complete the document by the next Committee meeting in January.

Staff will begin the process of mapping all commercial properties in the Town of Mahone Bay. The group discussed what the next step would be, once the map has been prepared.

Town of Mahone Bay – Commercial Properties Listing, November 2017

Mr. Wentzell presented the Committee with a list of all current commercial properties within the Town of Mahone Bay as a reference document.

SSREN Initiative in Mahone Bay

Ms. St-Onge updated the group on the current initiatives of the South Shore Regional Enterprise Network (SSREN).

Mayors/Deputies Discussion – Marketing Levy

Mr. Wentzell informed the Committee of ongoing discussions with the Mayors, Deputies, Wardens and CAO's Committee. Marketing levies are being studied, considered, and adopted by some municipalities. The Committee discussed how these marketing levies could benefit the Town of Mahone Bay.

Next Steps and Focus of the Committee

It was decided that before the next meeting of the Committee, the Terms of Reference, the Strategic Work Plan and the commercial property map would be completed.

Next Meeting

Committee members agreed that meetings would be set on an ad-hoc basis. The next meeting date will be set by email.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Recording Secretary, Kelly Redden