



The regular meeting of the Economic Development Committee for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Present:

Councillor J. Bain, Chair
Councillor C. O'Neill
Mayor D. Devenne
J. Frampton
A. St. Onge
L. Hennigar
D. Heide, CAO
M. Hughes, Clerk

Absent: D. King

Approval of Agenda

A motion by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Hennigar, **"THAT the agenda be approved as amended to add Centennial Decoration Project Review Panel."**

Motion carried.

Minutes

A motion by Ms. Hennigar, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, **"THAT the minutes of the May 15, 2019 meeting of the Economic Development Committee be approved as presented."**

Motion carried.

Centennial Decoration Project Review Panel

Committee members were advised that at the last meeting of Council, a suggestion was made that if the Town proceeds with an Infrastructure Decoration project as one of the Centennial initiatives, that the Economic Development Committee may be an appropriate group to review submissions for consideration.

A motion by Ms. Hennigar, seconded by Mr. Frampton, **"THAT the Economic Development Committee request that Council delegate the role of review of any submissions to a proposed Infrastructure Decoration Centennial Project."**

Motion carried

2019 Economic Development Committee Action Plan

The committee received the final EDC Action Plan which was approved by Council on June 11, 2019. The structure of the Action Plan will be used to inform future agendas of the committee.

Action Plan Item #1

Results of the Town of Mahone Bay Economic Development Survey 2019

The Town of Mahone Bay issued a survey in May 2019 which closed on June 14, 2019 to encourage feedback from business owners in town. The survey Mr. Frampton personally spoke to 62 businesses in Town to encourage them to participate in the survey. From the conversations that Mr. Frampton had with business owners while discussing the survey it was apparent that many business owners feel that Mahone Bay is a tourist town.

Committee members identified key themes identified in the survey responses on which they will focus future discussion, which include, but are not limited to: increased availability of public washrooms, wayfinding signage, wi-fi, supporting improved accessibility in the private sector, and parking.

Action Plan Item #3

Chamber Events Coordination Update

Committee members received an update on the Events Coordination project that is currently underway in Mahone Bay under the Chamber with the support of the Town. Staff reported that a group of key stakeholders has met with a facilitator retained by the Chamber and will submit comments and observations about the Town over the course of the summer as the Town is busier due to the tourist season. Comments from stakeholders will be compiled and in the fall the stakeholder group will work with the facilitator to identify issues that have been identified, then discuss possible solutions.

Committee members were encouraged to forward to staff their thoughts and observations on events-related issues, both good and bad, that they observe in the Town over the course of the summer to be included in the feedback from the Town to the facilitator.

Action Plan Item #7

County-wide Asset Inventory Initiative Update

Committee members received an update from staff regarding the proposed county-wide asset inventory initiative. The committee was informed that discussions are continuing about seeking funding for a county-wide project and that once staff have confirmation about the availability of external funding a proposal will be put forward to the Town if there is an opportunity for the Town to participate in an asset inventory.

* Councillor O'Neill excused herself from the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Action Plan Item #8

Development Agreements in Municipal Planning Strategy/ Land Use By-law

Committee members discussed the possibility that conversation at the committee level regarding development agreements, land use and zoning may inform future discussions which could then inform recommendations that the committee may make toward the Plan Review.

New Business

Short-Term Rental Accommodations

The committee discussed feedback heard in the community regarding short-term rental accommodations. It was agreed that the discussion of Short-Term Rental accommodations should be considered as part of this committee's discussion of the economy of Mahone Bay as well as the feedback to the upcoming Plan Review.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee was scheduled for **Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 3:00 pm.**

The meeting adjourned by motion at 4:50 pm.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Councillor John Bain, Chair

Maureen Hughes, Clerk