



The regular meeting of the Economic Development Committee for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Present:

Councillor J. Bain, Chair
Mayor D. Devenne
J. Frampton
D. King
D. Heide, CAO
M. Hughes, Clerk

Absent: A. St. Onge (regrets)

Approval of Agenda

A motion by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Frampton, **“THAT the agenda be approved as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

Minutes

A motion by Councillor O’Neill, seconded by Mr. Frampton, **“THAT the minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting of the Economic Development Committee be approved as presented.”** **Motion carried.**

Presentation

Bob Youden, of M.A.D.E. for Mahone Bay, spoke to the Economic Development Committee about his experience developing long-term accommodations in Mahone Bay, specifically for the senior and low-income populations. Mr. Youden also spoke to the lack of available housing and the barrier that it creates for business development because staffing shortages are exacerbated as staff have trouble finding accommodations.

Mr. Youden left Committee members with the message that the primary barriers for business development that he sees are housing, taxes and staffing shortages.

2019 Economic Development Committee Action Plan

Action Plan Item #1

Results of the Town of Mahone Bay Economic Development Survey 2019

Mr. Heide reviewed the staff input on the survey report prepared by the committee members. Included the review of the survey responses was an update on which of the recommendations reference items are already on Council's action list. The report was amended to reflect feedback from committee members.

A motion by Mr. Frampton, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, **"THAT the Economic Development Committee Small Business Survey Report be approved as amended."** Motion carried.

Action Plan Item #2

Establishing Relationships

NOW Lunenburg County

Committee members reaffirmed their interest in inviting NOW Lunenburg County to speak about their initiatives at the January or February 2020 meeting.

Action Plan Item #4

Supply Chain/ Business to Business Initiative

Committee members briefly discussed the session with Robert Cervelli of The Centre for Local Prosperity, which was held at the Mahone Bay Centre on November 19th. Committee members were told that there were 14 people in attendance and that the workshop led to discussion among attendees about some ideas which may be able to work in Mahone Bay. Notes from the session will be shared at the next meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

Action Plan Item #7

County-wide Asset Inventory Initiative Update

Staff advised Committee members that the Lunenburg County economic development staff have identified a platform for an interactive asset inventory map and the initiative is now moving forward. The committee will receive progress reports in this regard.

Centennial Infrastructure Decoration Proposal

Committee members were advised by staff that the one proposal for the Centennial Infrastructure initiative that was approved will not proceed; staff have been advised that the artist does not have the time to complete the project but has forwarded thanks to the Town for the opportunity.

New Business

Committee Member Resignation

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

2019 Meetings

Due to ongoing conversation about the best meeting time to accommodate committee members, the meetings of the Economic Development Committee will not be finalized for the 2020 Meeting Schedule. Committee members will continue discussion about the best time to meet at the Committee's next meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Councillor John Bain, Chair

Maureen Hughes, Clerk