

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via video conferencing.

Present:

Councillor John Bain
Councillor Colleen O'Neill
Jeff Frampton
Danielle King
Annette St-Onge
Mayor David Devenne
CAO, Dylan Heide
Clerk, Maureen Hughes

Guests: Ange Phillips, Secretary, MBTCC

Absent: Lynn Hennigar (regrets)

1. Approval of Agenda

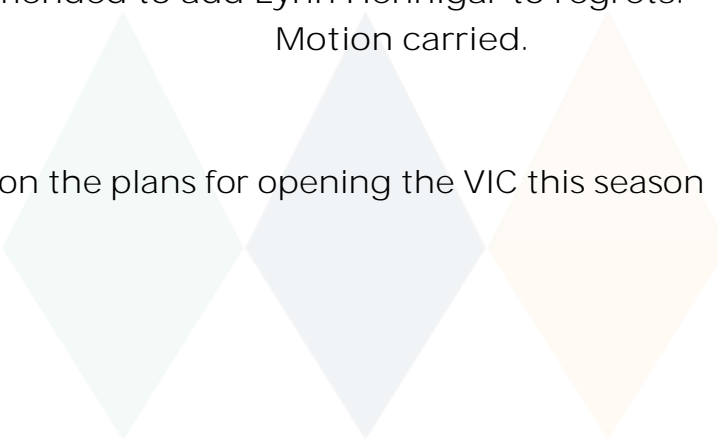
A motion by Ms. St. Onge, seconded by Mr. Frampton, **“THAT the agenda be approved presented.”**
Motion carried.

2. Minutes

A motion by Mr. Frampton, seconded by Ms. St. Onge, **“THAT the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting be approved as amended to add Lynn Hennigar to regrets.”**
Motion carried.

3. Visitor Information Centre

Ms. Phillips provided a quick update on the plans for opening the VIC this season



4. Economic Development Committee Action Plan

Action Plan Item #1

Results of Invitational Survey for Business Community

The CAO updated the Committee on the report with survey recommendations that was submitted to Council and how each recommendation was received through the 2020/21 budget process including timelines for action.

Committee members were advised that draft versions of the Temporary Vending and Events By-laws were presented to Council at their June 9, 2020 regular meeting. The staff report containing the draft by-laws will be forwarded to committee members.

Action Plan Item #4

Supply Chain/Business to Business Initiative

The committee reviewed the recommendations that came from the community session on local economy which was facilitated by Robert Cervelli from the Centre for Local Prosperity; committee members discussed ways in which the committee could support and champion some of the suggestions.

The Town of Mahone Bay's Climate and Energy Coordinator, Katherine Dorey, will be join a future meeting of the committee to discuss shopping and eating locally in a community GHG reduction context.

Action Plan Item #6

Recommendation supporting redevelopment of Town Website:

Committee members were advised that the Town's new website is under development and that they can expect to see the draft website within the next few weeks for their feedback before the new website goes live.

5. New Business

Mahone Bay Business Community and COVID-19

The CAO and the Mayor advised committee members about actions that the Town has taken to assist the business community that has been hit by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically the suspension of interest rates on taxes and utility

accounts, as well as utility disconnects and tax sales. The Town's new COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Program – with a deadline of July 31st, 2020 – was also referenced.

Ms. Phillips spoke about the information that the Mahone Bay and Tourism and Chamber of Commerce has from the Mahone Bay business community about the challenges that businesses are facing and how business owners are faring in the current economic climate.

A motion by Ms. St.Onge, seconded by Ms. King, **“THAT the committee recommend that Council appoint Ange Phillips to the Economic Development Committee as the representative from the Mahone Bay Tourism and Chamber of Commerce.”**

Motion carried.

2020 Economic Development Committee Action Plan

Committee members were advised that at the next meeting of the Economic Development Committee work will start on the development of the Committee's 2020/21 Action Plan.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned by motion at 3:23 pm

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Chair, Councillor John Bain

Clerk, Maureen Hughes

