

TOWNSHIP OF MCKELLAR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2013-02-06

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Hopkins, Debbie McMurray, Doug Weber, Wave Weir.

REGRETS: Paul Ferguson.

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 PM

I. (A) MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA: Moved by Wave Weir; seconded by Doug Weber; that the Agenda for 6 February 2013 meeting be accepted. Carried.

I. (B) MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES: Moved by Debbie McMurray; seconded by Wave Weir; that the Minutes, as amended, of 2 January 2013 meeting be accepted. Carried.

II. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None.

III. VISITORS: Stephen Webb (Intern); Greg Godbeer; Barbara Mallory; Cam Ward (Agricultural Committee).

There were introductions to the new intern.

Cam Ward was a visitor responding to the Long Term Conceptual Paper.

Discussion began on the revised Conceptual Paper. The references to section 2.0 in the Economic Plan would have proper notation style.

Cam responded to the suggestion in the paper of a McKellar based abattoir. He said that he personally trucked his farm products to Sprucedale and this was not too onerous. His opinion was that there are not enough meat producers in McKellar to support an abattoir. When asked about a community freezer, he brought up the government regulations which would inhibit such an initiative. Further, he described the bureaucratic hurdles that exist when it comes to meat farming.

Cam assured the committee that area farmers would need to greatly increase production volumes to subsist entirely on a farm income. Moreover, this increase might not be compatible with the other area businesses, the example given being cottage tourism negatively impacted by farm odors.

Wave brought up the potential of McKellar being a prime area for small niche farms, as the land had never been sprayed and would be ideal for organic growers looking for higher prices for their yields.

Peter asked Cam whether many farmers would have considered the MFTIP (Manager Forest Tax Incentive Program) for farms that also included forested land. Cam responded that most probably had not, but then brought up that most were already offered tax breaks through the designation of their land as being for farm use.

In summary, it was generally agreed that the paper should be amended to suggest that the municipality support farmers in whatever way they required. It was suggested that this aid might take the form of making it easier for business to prosper locally by having a more favourable zoning environment; specifically minimizing red tape and superfluous fees.

The next step will be to put together a letter addressing the tourism operators and inviting them to provide input on the conceptual paper. Stephen will prepare this letter.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

V. REPORTS OF MEMBERS:

Wave Weir –

Wave reported that the Biosphere Action Group was planning a Food Forum to be held in May and that the Committee was invited to attend a luncheon meeting on 11 February 2013. Stephen and Wave will attend that.

Doug Weber –

Doug reported that he would look further into the Destination Ontario initiative in regard to potential funding for tourism and marketing. He also reported that through OFSC District 10 he was involved with potentially asking for a staging area in McKellar.

Further, Doug reported that the Dun-Ahmic Snowriders have a new groomer. The Dun-Ahmic snowriders are working on a regional loop trail initiative and they will soon be asking Council to use the township parking lot as a staging area for snowmobiles. This would require some further plowing of the parking area to accommodate the staging area.

VI. MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS:

Moved by Wave Weir; seconded by Debbie McMurray; that the Economic Development Committee approve the holding of an Active Living and Wellness Fair on 22 June, 2013. Carried.

Moved by Debbie McMurray; seconded by Wave Weir; that the Economic Development Committee present to the Township of McKellar Council the Inn at Manitou letter. Carried.

Moved by Wave Weir; seconded by Debbie McMurray; that in keeping with the 100 mile mandate of the McKellar Market, the EDC of Council is hosting a Seedy Saturday event 23 March, 2013, with regular market vendors and district horticulturalists invited to participate. Carried.

Moved by Wave Weir; seconded by Debbie McMurray; that the drafts of the McKellar Market Guidelines and Vendors Agreement be presented to the Market Committee for input. Carried.

Moved by Wave Weir; seconded by Debbie McMurray; that Stephen Webb attend a Social Media Workshop at Canadore College with the EDC funding the \$30 for him to attend. Carried.

Moved by Debbie McMurray; Seconded by Wave Weir; that a monthly listing of community events be compiled as the "McKellar Happenings". Carried.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

(A) Holistic Fair

The date of the Holistic Fair is to be changed to 22 June, 2013. Theresa Gregory is willing to help organize.

(B) Business Directory

The directory of local businesses will be going to print in the next few weeks. The plan is to have this mailed to each local household in addition to having it available at the usual tourism oriented places.

(C) Doors Open Ontario / Trails Open Ontario

McKellar's part in the Doors Open Ontario will be to have the usual Farmer's Market as well as Pioneer College Demos and Nature Hikes. Vivian Moore and Tamara Black are the contact people for this event.

(D) Pioneer College

There was a poster produced for the Pioneer College Courses scheduled so far this year. The coming courses include:

1. Woodlots and invasive species and diseases.
2. Forest Raptor Identification
3. Water ecosystem panel discussion
4. Naturalized Landscapes (suggested)
5. Quilt Making
6. Tree identification walk along the Balsam Trail (suggested)

(E) Budget

A draft was prepared of the budget which will be subject to revision and final approval at the March EDC meeting. Once updated, the budget will be circulated.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Letter to the Inn

There was a discussion regarding the letter to be send inquiring as to the status of the Inn at Manitou. Revisions were made to this letter, as seen in the attached version of the letter.

Wave assumed Chair for the meeting following Doug's departure.

(B) REDAC

The REDAC report was circulated.

(C) Seedy Saturday

The Seedy Saturday event has been scheduled for 23 March, 2013 with 16 tables rented thus far. The event is to promote the cultivation of seeds locally.

(D) McKellar Market

Revisions were made to the Market Guidelines and Vendor Agreement documents, as seen in the attached versions of these documents. The draft was approved with the changes to be presented to the market committee for their input.

It was also discussed that there should be a local McKellar booth to showcase what could become the branded McKellar products.

(E) Stephen's Role at Meetings

The EDC will ask Shawn Boggs for clarifications regarding what Stephen can do for the committee at meetings, like take minutes.

(F) Stephen's Meetings

Stephen wishes to attend meetings with area interns monthly for collaboration and partnership with other area businesses and organizations. As well, Stephen wishes to get \$30 funding and permission to attend a workshop at Canadore College on 12 February, 2013 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

(G) Tourism List

The Tourism List was circulated and it will be the focus of the next meeting. Stephen is to draft a letter and then forward it to the committee for approval.

(H) Building Statistics

Statistics from the planner on the number of new buildings in the area were circulated.

(I) McKellar Happenings

Peter has compiled a list of all the events in McKellar and, through Stephen's efforts, this will be made into a calendar to be linked to the township website as well as linked at other sites. This has been tentatively titled "McKellar Happenings".

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Moved By Debbie McMurray; seconded by Wave Weir; that the committee adjourn at 10:36 PM to meet again on 3 March, 2013 at 7:30 PM. Carried.