

Minutes EDC May 5, 2015 DRAFT

Absent: Peter Brewster

Present: John Cole, Glen Jones, Greg Godbeer, Debbie McMurray, Dave Downing, Wave Weir

1. **Accept the minutes**, as corrected. Dave Downing/Glen Jones, passed.
2. **Accept agenda** – MLCA poll questions added to unfinished business
3. No **declarations of pecuniary interest**.
4. **Visitors**: Peter Hopkins, Jimmy McMurdo, Mike Kekkonen, Debbie Zulak, Gord Zulak, Henry Beier.
5. **Correspondence** – Ted Davidson, forwarded to clerk
John to send Gord Zulak the link to a referred report

6. **Reports**
 - Intern**- Welcome to Mackenzie Taylor. Mackenzie has been looking into grant possibilities. Several have passed deadlines but can be planned for next year.
 - Provincial Tourism Development Fund- 50% of costs, need plan of action
 - Disability Grant- applied for audio system and new council table
 - Rural Economic Development, RED-partnership into rural communities 50%, health care, closed January 31
 - Age Friendly Community Planning Grant
 - Mackenzie will put together a sheet with information

 - Mackenzie reported for Jane Saville on the market
 - where has market been advertised before she came on?
 - Fun in the Sun and Parry Sound Tourism
 - discussion on replacing signs as we are no longer a Farmers' Market
 - EDC has money in budget for signs as well as \$1500 carried over from last year's budget.
 - Glen Jones and Greg Godbeer will be overseeing signage and on receiving suggested wording and # of signs required, can pursue completion.
 - only one full time vendor has signed up and a couple of occasionals.

 - Pioneer School**- The "Chicken Class" was well received with 5 participants, the Salad course is May 23.
 - Midlothian Farms did not respond to date, to our confirmation of interest in a seed workshop.
 - Edible Wild and Cheese Making has received many requests. No dates set.

 - Active Living Fair**- There has been two planning meetings. Theresa Gregory has stepped down as chair and new volunteers are welcome. New date, July 25th, 2015.
 - Next planning meeting May 14th, @ 10am.

SMART- met to determine terms of reference for non-profit group. With a resolution, the terms of reference will be put to councils for approval. The fiberoptic backbone through McKellar is fully funded and expect to be in operation 2018. Any secondary branching of services depends on the providers. Bell now has an internet package for Northern users at \$49/month.

Trails Meeting – Council will be walking the Balsam trail Monday May 11 at 9am or 5pm. As MtO will not allow entering on hwy 124, loops may be considered. Consideration for limited access of small lakes needs to be considered as well as suggestion of using concession access through crown land. The Town of Parry Sound recently held a meeting on their trail development program, April 8th, 6;30pm.

Municipal Meeting- Chair John Cole attended the full session. Thank you to council for their \$15 toward the workshops. He understands more clearly the functioning of councils and committees. New regulations are expected on conflict of interest, pecuniary interest, mandatory audio and video recordings, etc. Fred Dean suggested that Strategic Plans are essential for municipalities and need to consider 20-40 years.

Local Business Directory- is complete and looks great! Wave will draft a letter of commendation and thank you to Julie Archer and Phil Boyd for their work and time in making this happen. Note; check if any active B&B's in the township.

7. Unfinished Business

MLCA had offered to conduct a poll around Economic Development and Strategic Planning around McKellar. A sampling of questions was circulated to give ideas. Discussion was had regarding the best way to get good cross sections of response, how to word questions, how to distribute the survey beyond the MLCA website, convenience surveying at community events, the need for qualitative as well as quantitative sampling. Statistically for a population of 2000, 20 in depth interviews are significant. Anonymous responses may be more candid.

It was questioned to what end?

Coles response; the purpose of a Strategic Plan is to create the tools and environment to attract growth which provides income, jobs, business opportunities, etc. It provides potential entrepreneurs with info. as to what the township is planning and therefore how the business will be impacted in the future. It was suggested that a workshop be considered as a way of gaining understanding on the purpose and make up of a strategic plan. It was agreed to pursue the survey and keep it on the agenda. Weir, Godbeer and Jones to meet with Mackenzie regarding the development of surveys.

Strategic Plan-Cole provided a template that he has been developing. It will continue to be fleshed out and all will provide ongoing input. Mackenzie will meet with John to match granting information to the various projects.

8. New Business

Issues arising from council meeting- Henry Beier had indicated discontent with EDC minutes.

-Councillor Bonnie Beier suggested that EDC should have contacted the Parry Sound Chamber of Commerce. It was suggested that council already has a conduit of information as they have a rep on the Chamber Board, which is Ms, Beier.

Update on Open Meeting on Strategic Plan- deferred, no response yet from council

Roles of Committee members- deferred until council has made their decisions, then we will be able to shift designated roles.

FICE- First Impression Community Exchange is a program where a committee goes to a partnered community to provide first impressions and give opinions. Possible future plan.

Link- qmfra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/edr/fice/intex.html

Question; What happened to the motions to present a request for RFPs regarding the walking bridge to council. Answer; That was done and it is now in the hands of council.

9. Motions and Notice of Motions- none

10. Closed- Announced the intention to enter into closed session to have a discussion which would disclose the identity of identifiable individuals. Moved in to closed session approx. 8:30 pm

Returned from closed session approx. 9pm. and welcomed the public back in to chambers. Read the results of the discussion held there within.

The intention is to “ table discussion pending confirmation from council as to the representation on the EDC.

11. Next Meeting- Tuesday June 2, 6:30 pm. *Please, note change for this month.*

12. Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Greg Godbeer/ Glen Jones, passed.