

March 20, 2019

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MINUTES

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019 the Council for the Corporation of the Township of South held an Economic Development Meeting.

Present- Mayor Dumas Staff- Holly Hayes, CAO/ Clerk –Treasurer
Councillor Sandra Collins Guests: Greg Webb Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce
Councillor Joe Florent Dustin Turner Ministry of Northern Development & Mines
Councillor Dave Harper
Councillor Bongo Mike Kalimin
Councillor Richard Shalla
Councillor Joey Vermaire

OPEN MEETING/CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Councillor Kalimin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: J. Vermaire Seconded by: J. Florent to adopt the agenda as presented.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None

DELEGATIONS:

Evelyn Lesage provided a written copy of her address to council which has been appended to the Minutes.

Mayor Dumas requested that we do a round table to introduce the members at the committee table and those in the audience.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Greg Webb provided his background and highlighted that his goals are to develop satellite offices to get more presence within his very large jurisdiction; he has already done this in Coe Hill with success and would like to attempt to do the same in South Algonquin. He provided a copy of a document that is an example of the kind of work he would like to do in the area and discussed some of the opportunity that he can provide serving the area.

-H. Hayes recommends a pilot within the current Resource Centre for the remainder of 2019.

-Dustin Turner from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines provided an extensive list of the funding and programs that are available through his office. Dustin offered to assist us with the programs that he manages and suggested that he come back and provide a 3 hour workshop Economic Development 101.

-Councillor Kalimin provided a presentation highlighting;

-local Economic Development opportunity, branding, first impressions, how do we get on the map, growing, campfire culture and the link to the arts culture,

-presented the idea of using the downtown revitalization funds for; wildlife art project, downtown market, music programming, food tourism, Young Leaders convention,

Moved by: D. Harper Seconded by: J. Florent to adjourn the Economic Development Meeting of March 20, 2019 at 11:25 pm.

Councillor Bongo Mike Kalimin

CAO/Clerk Treasurer Holly Hayes
Recording Secretary

Good morning. Thank you for hearing me today. I'm here on behalf of SABA - the South Algonquin Business Association. We are watching the development of the new Economic Development Committee with interest and enthusiasm and are looking forward to hearing what you have to discuss today, and also to supporting the work you plan to do here.

We want to let you know that our membership is growing, and so also is the community conversation about how we can contribute to resilience and prosperity in South Algonquin, which of course includes both economic and social components. We recognize that the work you can do at this table is very different than the work we can do at ours. But these two different parts are both complementary, and both necessary for the good of the whole. The work of one without the other will make all of our work more difficult, and measurably less successful. So we want you to know that SABA is ready, willing, and able to work *with* council to support your work on economic development.

I'm here today with an offer and a request.

First, we recognize that staff and council's time and expertise are both limited by the resources at hand. SABA has a number of skills among our membership that we anticipate you will find useful going forward. We would like you know that our services are available and at your disposal. For example, we can:

- offer critically important insight and perspective into the challenges local businesses face and the opportunities we see ahead of us
- facilitate discussions of local stakeholders
- provide an effective channel for sharing information between the business community and council
- assist with grant writing
- partner on funding applications and provide letters of support
- assist with research and knowledge mobilization
- connect you with outside organizations who also support economic development agendas
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You should also know that we are not only interested in economic development, but more broadly, *community economic development*. Consequently, we believe very strongly that *community-driven* efforts to build resilience and prosperity will have the most beneficial and long-lasting effect. That means we believe that people at the community level must be involved in the communication and information sharing process from the very design stage of the Economic Development Committee. If economic development is something you're doing *to* the us, it will be much less successful than if it's something you're doing *with* us.

This means that I also come here with one request: We ask that you open seats at the Economic Development Committee to members of SABA and the public so we can be permitted to engage in constructive conversation in equal measure over the decisions that ultimately affect our livelihoods and lifestyles intimately. The Municipal Act encourages this kind of public participation, and most councils in Ontario actively seek it by

writing the public participation requirement into policy. We would like you to do the same. In fact, some of the most forward-thinking communities insist that there are more members of the public on their economic development committee than councillors. In the 21st century - where a single tweet, post, photo or new piece of technology can make or break a business venture in a split second - this kind of diversity at the decision-making table is no longer optional. It's where your strength will come from. Your success - and ours - depends on us sitting side by side, together, sharing our different experiences, perspectives and knowledge for the benefit of everyone in the community.

On behalf of SABA, I would like to say again that we are looking forward to hearing from the Economic Development Committee with interest and enthusiasm. More importantly, we are looking forward to being a part of those discussions.

Thank you for your time. We request and look forward to your reply.