



The Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Community & Economic Development

Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

May 20, 2021

8:00 a.m.

E-participation

Committee Absent: Councillor Ferguson
Councillor Guerard
Scott McLellan
Noreen Young
Mary Rozenberg
Ron MacMeekin
Greg Smith
Dawn McGeachy

Staff: Tiffany MacLaren- Community, Economic & Cultural Coordinator
Bonnie Ostrom – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Minnille

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Scott McLellan called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

To add G3. Riverwalk Working Group- Verbal update

THAT the C&EDC May 20, 2021 agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by Mary Rozenberg

Seconded by Greg Smith

CARRIED

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

THAT the C&EDC minutes from April 22, 2021 be accepted as presented.

Moved by Noreen Young

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

CARRIED

E. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

F. REPORTS

G. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

G.1 Pakenham River Trail- Verbal Update

The Pakenham River Trail Working Group applied for the Healthy Community Initiative Grant but was not successful in the first intake. The second intake is possibly in June so they are hoping for a successful outcome. The funds would help with the preliminary work such as design, engineered drawings.

G.2 Business Breakfasts - Verbal update and discussion

The Community, Economic & Cultural Coordinator conducted a survey from the attendee list of the Business Breakfast meetings. 28 responses, with 26 saying they would attend a virtual breakfast and 2 declined. It was confirmed that the professional zoom license would accommodate such a virtual meeting. Overall the 7:30am - 9:00am time frame worked for most and a potential of ordering breakfast through local restaurants was positive. Some suggested topics: Updates on the business park lots, downtown revitalization time lines, marketing during Covid-19, how some businesses pivoted their business plan to make it work in a pandemic, catching up on other business news in general.

A small working group consisting of: Tiffany MacLaren, Scott McLellan, Greg Smith, Dawn McGeachy, Mary Rozenberg will meet to discuss how to manage the overall meeting, breakout sessions and topics. It was suggested the virtual breakfast meeting take place the third week in June, date to be determined.

It was requested that the layout of the next phase of the business park be distributed to the committee members. The Community, Economic & Cultural Coordinator will reach out to Zoom to provide additional tools for the virtual meeting.

G3. Riverwalk Working Group- Verbal Update

Four of the five benches have been installed along the Riverwalk. Interpretive signs depicting heritage properties, the Mill Workers Staircase and walkway and more are being completed. The Textile Museum was successful with a Federal grant for the interpretive signs that will be bilingual. Consultation with Lanark County on the locations of the signage along the OVRT was completed. Additional Riverwalk directional signage will also be added.

Stone dust will be added to the path from Bridge to the park ensuring accessibility measures are met.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2021 to discuss any further business and the grand opening celebration hopefully by the fall.

H. ROUND TABLE

H1. Garbage/Dog Poop

There seems to be an increase amount of dog poop on our trails, parks, streets. It was suggested that more garbage cans and dog poop receptacles be placed in strategic places. Arrangements have been made for garbage to be picked up Friday's and Monday's with additional pick up on the Sunday of the long weekends.

Noreen Young agreed to help add humor to a possible public service announcement about picking up after your dog for the website and Facebook.

H2. Personal Preparedness

There will be a virtual one hour presentation from the Canadian Red Cross regarding 72 hour personal preparedness workshop. The Almonte Library will be organizing this virtual presentation on May 26 at 6:30pm.

H3. Pakenham Update

The new owners of the General Store have opened their doors and have been very busy.

With the increase of people in our town, the parking has become an issue along Hwy 29 at the 5 Span Park. Possibly asking by-law to monitor the area more often.

Pakenham has seen an increase in the number of dogs running off leash as well.

H4. Dog Park

Councillor Guerard announced that there will be a survey sent out by the Parks & Recreation committee in the coming weeks with regards to having a dog park in Mississippi Mills.

She suggested that everyone make their wishes and comments known. She will ensure the survey is forwarded to this committee as well.

H5. Pop- Up Puppets Up Update

On April 22 there was a virtual zoom meeting with 50 very enthusiastic and creative thinking volunteers who were wanting to help produce a Pop- Up Puppets Up event for 2022. Since then the number has increased to 72 people, with a number of new people to the area with a variety of skills. The Pop- Up Puppets Up event will take place August 12, 13, 14, 2022. Jane Torrance will be the Festival Director.

The next leadership meeting will take place June 3.

H6. Business Park

The next phase (10 serviced lots) of the Business Park should be completed by the end of the summer. The Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator confirmed there have been a number of inquiries about the lots from manufacturing businesses, local businesses looking to expand as well as new ventures.

The process has changed somewhat for potential buyers and all offers will be brought to Council for approval.

With no current senior planner the concern was that these 10 lots could potentially be sold out this summer/fall. The concern is that there is no other business park planned within Mississippi Mills so what will be the next steps?

Inquiries about the possible path through the new phase of the business park from the Greystone pathway to the neighboring schools. Further information to be brought to the next meeting.

H7. Healthy Community Initiatives

The Library CEO and the Community, Economic & Cultural Coordinator received some funding from the Healthy Community Initiatives grant. Their application dealt with the lack of internet service in rural communities.

This pilot project is funded for one year. A joint statement will be announcement soon.

H8. Miscellaneous

- Some time between roughly May 24 to June 2, Wood Duck hatchlings will be trying to cross Spring Street to reach the river from their nesting cavity in a tree at 169 Spring Street. It is asked that residents be cautious in the area.
- Resident Heather Phaneuf sent a letter to Council asking permission to post a plaque for Stuart MacLean who describes downtown Almonte in the most eloquent way. With consultation with Roads and Public Works the plaque will be located at Mill Street and Bridge St out of the way of the sidewalk plow.
- Greg Smith has been working with Carleton University to develop self directed learning programs. These will be at no charge to businesses and should be released in June. Greg will send the links once finalized.
- Committee asked if Deputy Mayor Ricky Minnille could update the committee if Lanark County is looking into any limits to the size of ATV's allowed on the OVRT.
- Council approved benches to be installed along the OVRT. Benches will be installed in Pakenham and Blakeney this spring.
- The Almonte Fair Grounds will be opening up on Friday May 21 so people can access the boat launch.

H9. The Pebble Mosaic Project

The Almonte Old Town Hall garden was chosen for the site of The Pebble Mosaic Project which is being organized by the Red Dress Productions and Lanark County Interval House. There was an initial zoom meeting on May 13, whereby those attending could put forth their creative ideas for the project. The projects Art Director - Ann Camilleri will put those ideas together to produce a design that amplifies the creative ideas that are unique to our community. The next meeting will be in June and the finished product should be completed and installed by September 2021.

The Almonte Horticultural Society will be redesigning the garden around the mosaic project. Public Works will install the concrete base later this summer.

I. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

J. OTHER / NEW BUSINESS

K. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is Thursday June 17, 2021 at 8:00am.

L. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the May 20, 2021 C&EDC meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Mary Rozenberg

Seconded by Greg Smith

CARRIED

Bonnie Ostrom, Recording
Secretary