



The Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Community & Economic Development

Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

August 26, 2021

8:00 a.m.

Almonte Old Town Hall

14 Bridge St., Almonte

Committee Present: Deputy Mayor Minnille
Councillor Ferguson
Scott McLellan
Ron MacMeekin
Greg Smith
Noreen Young

Committee Absent: Councillor Guerard, Mary Rozenberg, Dawn McGeachy
Staff Present: Tiffany MacLaren, Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator
Bonnie Ostrom, Recording Secretary

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee members seemed to have the incorrect agenda package. Resent correct link during meeting. Approval of the agenda was conducted once the correct agenda was received.

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Noreen Young

Seconded by Greg Smith

CARRIED

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Initially the committee had the agenda from the June 17th meeting. Once correct agenda was sent the June 17, 2021 minutes were voted upon.

THAT the C&EDC Committee approves the minutes dated June 17, 2021

Moved by Ron MacMeekin

Seconded by Greg Smith

CARRIED

E. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

F. REPORTS

F.1 Beautification Working Group - verbal update

The final day for the beautification summer students will be Friday August 27, 2021. The students did a fantastic job keeping the flower baskets and barrels thriving in the summer heat. We have arranged to have staff continue watering until Thanksgiving, depending on the weather.

Local horticulturalist Allan Goddard will be revamping the garden at the Old Town Hall in hopes to bring it back to its glory!

The Pebble Mosaic project base has been installed in the garden. The unveiling of the mosaic will be Thursday September 30th.

The Beautification working group hope to meet in September to discuss fall decorations, downtown clean up and daffodil planting.

It was suggested that the grasses in the Pakenham barrels not be used again as they reduced visibility at the Hwy 29 intersections. This information is to be sent to the Pakenham Horticultural Society as feedback for next year.

F.2 Riverwalk Working Group - verbal update

The grand opening of the Mill Workers Staircase was held on an extremely hot Saturday August 21st from 1:30 - 3:30pm.

The event included a storyteller, speeches from various dignitaries and the Riverwalk working group. Riverwalk Working Group Chairperson, Alex Gillis mentioned that the same working group members have been working on the Riverwalk projects since 2015.

The brass plaque will be installed in September at the top of the staircase. 20 bilingual interpretive signs will be installed along the Riverwalk and the Ottawa Valley Rail Trail depicting the history of the area with pictures.

The Riverwalk working group will transition to "The Friends of the Riverwalk" taking care of the Riverwalk with clean up and tree planting initiatives among other things.

More directional signs will be added in 2022.

G. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

G.1 Business Breakfast- discussion

The Community, Economic and Cultural Coordinator requested feedback from the June 24 virtual business breakfast. Overall, everyone felt the event went well. Most felt that the breakout sessions would work better if they were longer in duration to allow for further discussions. Other suggestions: have breakout room topics that people could sign up for, shorter time for guest speakers.

G.2 Lanark County Economic Development Grant

It was confirmed that Lanark County has allocated \$5000.00 to each municipality within the County for tourism initiatives.

A report to Lanark County is to be submitted by Dec 31,2021 outlining the tourism initiative. It was suggested that Council would need to decide how the grant would be spent. Staff to send a report to council.

H. ROUND TABLE

- Discussion on the future of the C&EDC committee and other advisory committees ensued. With the reorganization of management within the Municipal organization the Clerk brought forward a report suggesting that advisory committees be dissolved as of January 2022. It was recommended that C&EDC would remain a working group for special projects only or transition to BIA. Committee members voiced disappointed they were not consulted and felt unappreciated for their contribution to the committee.
- There will be a press conference at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum on October 1st outlining the launch of the Puppets Up Festival 2022. There will be two shifts 4-5:30pm and 5:30-7pm to allow for social distancing and controlled numbers.
- The OP22 (Almonte ward land boundaries)/OP11 Lanark County had the first series of public meetings to discuss the boundaries. The process went well. The entire process could take up to eight months to complete.

- "Every Child Matters" flags have been distributed throughout Lanark County. These flags are to be installed under the Canadian Flag and to remain at half mast.
- Pakenham update: The 3 Apples Bakery is doing very well. A new business has arrived on the main street- Blue Bird Cannabis. Currently there are parking issues in Pakenham due to the volume of people in the area. Bylaw will take a look at the issue.
- Committee member Greg Smith sent a video to committee members with regards to working habits and how to change procedures within organizations. This is an initiative through Algonquin College and was thought to be a good topic for a business breakfast.
- The Community, Economic & Cultural Coordinator conducted a survey of the Mill St downtown merchants with regards to the Downtown Revitalization project. 70% of the businesses responded to the survey with 90% of those businesses being aware of the project.
- A breakdown of 54% wanted to see the project start May 2022, while 48% wanted to see the project postponed to 2023.
- The final decision will be up to Council. Once the decision has been made then an RFP will be completed and the winner of the RFP will then outline the phases of the project. Public Works staff will be looking for grant opportunities at both the Provincial and Federal levels.

I. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

J. OTHER / NEW BUSINESS

K. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the August 26, 2021 meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Councillor Guerard

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

CARRIED

Bonnie Ostrom, Recording Secretary