

Southwold Economic Development Committee

Southwold Economic Development Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday March 30, 2016
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Chair:	Deputy Mayor Ian Chard
	Voting Members:	Councillor Peter North Cathy Bishop Jack VanderKooy
	Non-voting members:	Justin Dias, Elgin County Jeff Sheridan, Elgin Business Resource Centre (3:00 – 4:30)
	Resource:	Ken Loveland, CAO Kim Grogan, Treasurer
ABSENT:	Voting members:	Valerie Cron Ernst Hoffsuemmer Chris Meyers
	Non-voting members:	Katherine Thompson, Elgin County

1. Call to order

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

3. Approval of minutes from February 24, 2016 meeting (previously approved by e-mail)

Moved Peter - Seconded Cathy: Minutes of February 24, 2016 were reviewed and approved.

CARRIED.

4. Business arising from those minutes

a) **Networking Day Update-** Ian, Jeff and Justin provided an update on the networking day visiting area businesses within the Township. Flyers for the upcoming business information session were hand delivered and the visits were received well. Ian provided the committee with a listing of businesses in the Township for review. Committee members to provide any changes/additions at the next meeting. Peter discussed the need to help make it easier for businesses to grow in the Township without the “red tape” in regards to planning, zoning, location opportunities, etc.

b) **Business Information Session April 5 Update-** Justin discussed topics that will be discussed including Elgincentsives, small business, tourism and Jeff discussed loan programs and grant programs. Gord Hall will be added to the program to discuss Employment Services Elgin training and apprenticeship programs.

c) **Website Update-** Kim advised that Katherine is continuing to update the website. The Committee agreed that information on available Township residential developments will be included on the website once developments have received draft approval.

d) **Home Show-** Ian provided an update on the home show event including set up, location, materials and staffing.

e) **Spring Clean Up-** Ian confirmed with the Committee that Green Lane Community Trust has agreed to fund \$2,000 for Spring Clean bins. Ian will confirm the tentative dates of May 10 to 25, 2016 with Chris Meyers. *(update-dates have been confirmed with Chris)*

f) **Canada 150 Celebrate Update-** Peter discussed the Canada Day Committee roles and the intent for a Committee of Council to be formed for the Canada 150th Celebration events to be held in 2017. The Optimists are looking to continue with fireworks and celebration of Canada Day on June 30 of each year. Peter and Kim provided details on the program and noted deadlines, application processing times and potential changes to the program given the new federal government.

5. New Business

a) **Update on DHP Development and WWTP-** Ken advised the committee that the Schedule C has been complete and the Development Agreement is in draft form. Three proposals for a membrane technology plant are being considered for the WWTP that will allow for future growth and Talbotville area while providing temporary treatment until sufficient flows for start up of plant.

Ken updated the committee on the unsuccessful IESO solar farm application.

b) **Tourism Update-** nothing to report.

c) **2016 Committee Goals-** Ian provided a listing of EDC goals for 2016 including but not limited to:

- increase residential housing starts
- current business retention & development
- attract new business
- attract industrial business
- increase tourism
- improve EDC part of website
- work with Communities in Bloom to improve Township appearance and community relations
- creation of downtown renewal plan for Shedden & Fingal

Members have been asked to provide comments on the listing and provide suggestions for any additions/changes for discussion at the next meeting.

d) **Southwold by Tractor Update-** Ian and Jack provided planning to date for the event and indicated that they are anticipating 30 to 50 entries. Proposed date of the event of July 16, rain date of July 23 was discussed and with changes to the route, Shedden Complex ground rental needs to be secured. Proposed change to dates tentatively set as August 13, rain date of August 20. Further details to come.

Staff direction - to determine if tentative dates are available at Shedden. (update-July 9 has been set as the event date and July 23 has been set for the rain date due to availability of Keystone Complex grounds)

6. Other Business

- Next meeting: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at Municipal office.

Moved Cathy- Seconded Peter: Meeting adjournment at 4:50 p.m.

CARRIED.