

Southwold Economic Development Committee

Southwold Economic Development Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017
8:30 a.m., Council Chambers, Fingal

PRESENT: Chair: Deputy Mayor, Ian Chard
Voting Members: Councillor Peter North
Jack VanderKooy
Chris Meyer
Non-Voting Members: Jeff Sheridan, Elgin Business Resource Centre
Kate Burns Gallagher, Elgin County
Guests: Steve Bushell
Jim Carder
Barry Harrison
Resource: Kim Grogan, Treasurer
Ken Loveland, CAO
ABSENT: Voting Members: Ernst Hoffsuemmer
Valerie Cron
Non-voting members: Katherine Thompson, Elgin County

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

3. Approval of minutes from November 24, 2016 meeting

Moved by Jack – Seconded by Peter: *Minutes from the meeting of November 24, 2016 were reviewed and approved.*

CARRIED.

4. Business arising from those minutes.

- a) **Business Directory** - Ian distributed an updated copy of the Southwold Business Directory for review for the next meeting. Ian requested members provide missing business and identify any gaps in services.
- b) **Canada 150/Museum project update** - Ian provided an update on the Canadian History Museum exhibit and the awareness campaign. The Township is still awaiting the funding announcement.
- c) **Property Development Update** - Ken provided an update on the DHP Ridge development including the anticipated timing of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The 10 lot subdivision in Florence Court, the McBain property in Ferndale and the interest in 2 or 3 properties in Talbotville we discussed. The Township is anticipating over 700 new homes over the next 3 to 5 years. The sale of the 40 acre parcel on the south proportion of the Teetzel property was discussed along with the offer received on the house and barn. Ken provided that the municipality will be selling lots with frontage on Union Road and retaining a portion of the parcel for park expansion and a future waste water treatment plant. Ken advised that Ontario Plants Propagation is expanding. While construction on the senior

retirement home is moving slowly, Kate indicated that she is scheduled to meet with the General Manager. Kate will provide an update at the next meeting.

5. New Business

- a) **New Committee Members** - Ian introduced Steve Bushell, Jim Carder and Barry Harrison as potential new committee members.

Moved by Jack – Seconded by Chris: that Council approve the addition of Steve Bushell, Jim Carder, and Barry Harrison as new, voting members to the Economic Development Committee.

- b) **February Business Seminar** - Jeff provided details on area business seminars and indicated that 42 attended the Southwold seminar held at the Complex. Elgin Business Resource Centre is available to address local business needs and is able to secure speakers for specific interest events.
- c) **Visioning Meeting and next steps** - Kate provided a review of the visioning session and materials presented during the event. Kate also provided a summary of the results from the resident survey. Kate explained that as a next step in developing the toolkit, MDB Insight, will be reaching out to EDC members and the business community for interviews and comments. The draft toolkit should be available for review at the next meeting.
- d) **Home Show report and update** – Ian discussed our efforts to raise our profile and attract residents from other areas with participation in the London Home Show and upcoming Elgin & St Thomas Home Show. Ian felt we would be better served to attend the London Home & Garden Show next year. Members were asked to contact Ian if they are available to attend the upcoming St Thomas Home Show.
- e) **Southwold by Tractor 2017** – Jack provided an update on the Southwold by Tractor event. The proposed date of the 35-40 mile route is July 3, 2017. The entry fee will be raised to \$15 which will include a lunch and supper for drivers. Ian is to look into the price of providing rain ponchos for use in the event of rain.
- f) **Sustainability Plan** – Kim discussed the Township's Sustainability Plan and Council's authorization for the EDC Committee to review the Sustainability Plan in conjunction with staff from OMAFRA. Ian will invite OMAFRA to a future EDC meeting. Kim will provide copies of updates to the plan to Committee members.

Moved by Jack – Seconded by Chris: that the Economic Development Committee address the update to the Sustainability Plan in coordination with OMAFRA.

Other Business

- Ian discussed the Breakfast on the Farm event to be held at Ed Donkers farm on June 24, 2017 and the need for volunteers. Jack added that sponsors are needed for the event.
- Chris discussed the need for signage at Township properties that are available for lease in an effort to increase awareness.
- The Committee discussed holding a future meeting in Shedden at the old library.
- The Committee discussed the need for the Township to attract businesses to our communities and the need to find private entrepreneurs who identify that

an investment opportunity in Southwold would be a successful and profitable venture.

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the municipal office

Moved Jack- Seconded Chris: Meeting adjournment at 10:15 a.m.

CARRIED.