

Town of Hampton Economic Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

In attendance: Chris White (*staff*), Josh Adams (*Chair*), Chris Rendell, Councillor Todd Beach, Michel Boudreau, Richard Malone, Bruce Fowler, Trina Forest, Marcelle Bélanger, Jill Ganong, Heather Libbey

Regrets:

1. **Call to Order:** Josh Adams called the meeting to order at 6:32pm
2. **Welcome to New Members:** Jill Ganong, Marcelle Bélanger, Heather Libbey
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Michel Boudreau, seconded by Heather Libbey
4. **Declaration of Conflict of interest:** None declared
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Michel Boudreau, seconded by Chris Rendell to approve minutes of October 18, 2022.
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM: Town of Hampton became Hampton effective January 1 with new areas added. All Committees of Council now comprised of eight members plus a councillor and staff resources. 2023 budget approved; includes two columns, one for shared services (e.g., recreation) and a second for per/unit services (e.g., garbage collection). Municipal Plan and Zoning bylaw being updated (last update was 2020); will include public engagement sessions in January and February (4 sessions across each ward) plus an online survey. Planning Dept. getting many inquiries and integrating existing permits from new areas.
 - b. ENVISION SJ: Envision Saint John involved in the local government reform; new agreement being created for all areas within Fundy Region Service Commission. Original members agreement remains but will be updated to include two new entities.
 - c. STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANT: 2023 funding in place for grants of up to \$5000 / business. Applications period January 9 to March 31. CBDC offering an optional \$5000 loan in partnership with this program. Businesses in new areas eligible to participate if they meet application criteria. So far, two inquiries received. Article on the program in Kings County Record.
 - d. LIGHTHOUSE RIVER CENTRE: Project complete and on budget. Notice in February newsletter. New Tourism Assistant to be hired – will be stationed at LHRC.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. COMMERCIAL INCENTIVES: Chris White researching future Commercial Incentives for revised Action Plan. Josh Adams recommended Overnight Accommodations as an objective.
 - b. ATTAINABLE HOUSING: group discussion on area needs; Richard Malone noted housing questions included in Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law survey; Chris Rendell noted need for greater lot density / lot size allowances; Richard Malone noted changes in 2022 to allow 'granny suite' / accessory building inclusion; Councillor Todd Beach recommended reviewing current developer incentives; Heather Libbey recommended streamlining processes for desired developments – efficiency and ease of execution for developers.
 - c. CONTENT CREATION GRANT: \$2500 received from Dept. of Tourism
 - d. NATURE KIDS NB AUDIO TOUR: group received funding to create audio tour of Dutch Point Park; staff & Council will assist with recording; audio to be used for local group tours and visitor offering
 - e. PARTNERS IN CLIMATE PROTECTION: Committee members invited to public consultation session at Town Hall Feb 8 at 7pm. Efforts increasing to meet Milestone 4 (Implementation Plan) and Milestone 5 (Monitoring & Reporting). Data collected but in 'silos'; working to collate all numbers. Chris Rendell noted a key issue in reaching targets is public transit; Trina Forest noted transportation key for students

to reach part-time employment in other centres. Richard Malone noted FRSC has Transportation in their portfolio as a regional initiative and are establishing a committee. Heather Libbey suggested investigating federal programs focused on rural solutions.

8. Reports:

- a. Planning & Development – Richard Malone reported 2022 final permit number \$7,906,000.00 Down from 2021 and 2020 – both of those years saw apartment construction that increased overall number. Heather Libbey and Jill Ganong both noted cost of lending is having an impact on construction.
- b. Chamber of Commerce Report – Marcelle Bélanger noted the Chamber has hired Jen Gendron as Office Manager. Memberships increased to nearly 100 by end of 2022. Golf Tournament set for July 7.
- c. Michel Boudreau moved the adoption of the reports. Bruce Fowler seconded the motion.

9. Correspondence: None

10. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 21, 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

11. Adjournment: Marcelle Bélanger so moved at 7:48pm