

# Town of Hampton Economic Development Committee Meeting

## Tuesday, September 19, 2023

*In attendance:* Chris White (*staff*), Josh Adams (*Chair*), Councillor Todd Beach, Michel Boudreau, Richard Malone, Jill Ganong, Bruce Fowler, Chris Rendell, Heather Libbey, special presenter Jennifer Brown (Dillon Consulting)

*Regrets:* Trina Forest, Marcelle Bélanger

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1. **Call to Order:** Josh Adams called the meeting to order at 6:04pm
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Todd Beach, seconded by Michel Boudreau
3. **Declaration of Conflict of interest:** none
4. **Review of Draft Municipal Plan:** Jennifer Brown (Dillon Consulting) reviewed high level details of revised Municipal Plan. Full document available online; 30 day public comment period open until October 16th. October 24<sup>th</sup> Council receives Zoning By-law revision and that document goes to Public Review. Bruce Fowler noted Forestry is not captured – Jennifer Brown noted that will be included as part of Rural Zone. Chris Rendell noted previous plan did not allow for Industrial Land Use; Jennifer responded that the new plan must include this as there are places within the new areas of Hampton that already have this use in place. Efforts being made to define for future with focus on light industrial only. Jennifer Brown noted some complexity with Agricultural Land and possible strain on career farmers as residential (subdivision) pressures continue. May be mitigated via sub-division by-laws. Heather Libbey noted a need to keep green corridors within the Business Park; Jennifer Brown noted this would need to be addressed by a Secondary Plan/Guide to landscaping for areas like William Bell Drive. Jennifer Brown noted that Arts, Culture & Tourism are key elements for plan and should result in the development of an Arts & Culture Master Plan. Heather Libbey suggested there should be more prescriptive detail around Town Centre construction look and feel. Jennifer Brown responded that such Design Guidelines could be developed as part of the Housing Accelerator Fund work.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** moved by Michel Boudreau, seconded by Chris Rendell to approve minutes of August 15, 2023.
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
  - a. Local Governance Reform: Richard Malone noted garbage contracts may be extended – further discussion with province needed. Shared FRSC plan with members; two Hampton staff sit on regional committees.
  - b. Envision Saint John: Richard Malone noted Board was presented with 2024 Budget last week; staff working with Envision on two commercial opportunities; new interim CEO announced – Andrew Beckett.
  - c. Funding Question – FRSC budget feedback due by October 11<sup>th</sup>, adoption October 26<sup>th</sup>. Budget amount for individual communities calculated by FRSC based on community's % of regional tax base and population.
  - d. EV Chargers – now operational.
7. **New Business:**
  - a. Age Friendly Committee – a request from this group to add accessibility funding to Storefront Improvement Grant. Chris White noted this is part of the grant currently, but not highlighted. Look at possible campaign around this for 2024.
  - b. Green Tech: Jill Ganong asked if there were any incentives around Green Tech; Chris White investigating existing programs and looking to partner with HACC to identify opportunities for education / engagement with area businesses
8. **Reports:**
  - a. Planning & Development – Richard Malone shared August stats from Planning Department.

- b. Chamber of Commerce Report – Todd Beach reported Fall Business Mixer to be held Sept 20 at Visitor Information Centre. Small Business Awards night October 19<sup>th</sup>. Developed and Associate Membership strategy with Sussex Area Chamber of Commerce. Working on Youth Membership concept.
- c. Bruce Fowler suggested the addition of a report from the Hampton Food Basket to this committee to gauge economic impact. Chris to review with staff and Council.
- d. Heather Libbey moved the reports be accepted as read; seconded by Bruce Fowler.

9. **Correspondence:** None

10. **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, October 17th, 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

11. **Adjournment:** Councillor Todd Beach so moved at 7:30 pm