

Town of Hampton Economic Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

In attendance: Chris White (*staff*), Josh Adams (*Chair*), Councillor Todd Beach, Marcelle Bélanger, Jill Ganong, Paula Copeland

Regrets: Heather Libbey, Chris Rendell, Michel Boudreau

1. **Call to Order:** Josh Adams called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Paula Copeland: seconded by Jill Ganong to approve as edited.
3. **Conflict of Interest:** None
4. **Approval of previous minutes:** moved by Todd Beach, seconded by Paula Copeland to accept the minutes of August 19, 2025.
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a. Transportation: Chris White shared that FRSC Transportation Committee are still awaiting results of Federal Rural Transit fund application. KV Go pilot project was discussed – full report will come once that pilot is complete, and data compiled. Council have approved in principal that the Hampton 2026 budget should include funds towards further research and exploration of pilot projects with amount to be determined as part of fall budget planning.
 - b. Tourism Update: Hannah Kindred started September 8 and is already at work planning for 2026. Chris White reviewed tourism stats YTD.
 - i. 2853 visitors served at the Visitor Information Centre, an increase of 75% over 2024 volumes. This figure does not include special events like Covered Bridge pop-up (200+) or the weekly markets (1800+)
 - ii. 82.6% Canadian / 15.7% United States (42 states represented) / 1.7% Other (Australia, Cayman Islands, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, UK)
 - iii. Planning for fall & early 2026 includes: Fall Fest Oct 17-19, Winter Wonderland November 29, and Fundy Winterfest January 17-18.
 - c. Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee Invasive Species event hosted September 14; Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup to be held October 4 from 10am – noon. Those on foot will cover area at Spooner Island as little garbage was seen in the river area
6. **New Business:**
 - a. Flood Adaptation Plan – Chris White shared that consultants HILCON are underway with project for Planning Department. Three key areas: Pickwauket at Ravine Brook, Gordon Street, Trans Canada Trail near Vernon Avenue. Committee members are invited to attend a review of initial findings on September 22 at 6pm at Town Hall.
 - b. HACC Mixer: the town will host the fall mixer on October 17 at the Mike Murphy Memorial Fieldhouse. The presentation will discuss tourism stats, 2025 Planning Department numbers, and details on planned engagements for 2026 and business participation opportunities. Businesses will also be encouraged to bring a carved pumpkin representing their business for the Great Pumpkin Trail.
7. **Reports:**

- a. Planning & Development Update: Chris White shared a rolled-up YTD view of permit activity in all wards. Results at the end of August totaled more permits than all of 2024, which was a record year. August saw 31 permits alone.
 - b. PAC Report: No report available. Tabled to October meeting.
 - c. Chamber Report: Todd Beach shared that the Small Business Awards to be held October 22 at the Summit Centre, awards nomination closing soon. Jill Ganong mentioned that, in light of the recent fire at the Barn in Bloomfield, Sussex Area Chamber are looking at developing an information package for businesses to support them during a crisis such as this, with contact information that would help support when normal contacts are lost. Chris and Todd to discuss with HACC at next meeting.
 - d. Michel Boudreau moved the adoption of the Reports; seconded by Chris Rendell.
8. **Correspondence**: Paula Copeland shared invitation from Port Saint John to attend the screening of “Call me Roger” at Imperial Theatre on September 30 as part of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. Members welcome to attend this free event with an online ticket.
 9. **Next Meeting Date**: Requested that next month’s meeting be moved from October 21 to **October 28**. Chris to confirm with members.
 10. **Adjournment**: Marcelle Bélanger so moved at 7:28.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____