

Town of Hampton Economic Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

In attendance: Chris White (staff), Josh Adams (Chair), Councillor Todd Beach, Chris Rendell, Jill Ganong, Paula Copeland, Heather Libbey, Michel Boudreau

Regrets: Marcelle Bélanger

1. **Call to Order:** Josh Adams called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Todd Beach: seconded by Paula Copeland to approve.
3. **Conflict of Interest:** None
4. **Approval of previous minutes:** moved by Jill Ganong, seconded by Paula Copeland to accept the minutes of September 16, 2025.
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a. Action Plan Updates: The committee reviewed all Action Plan items and updated the year's progress. Several key projects for the start of next year:
 - i. Storefront Improvement Program (3.1.2 BG-11): Chris White and Todd Beach reported the program returns in 2026. Campaign to businesses in January.
 - ii. Hotel Accommodations (3.9 ACT-2): Chris White reported Dept of Tourism Culture & Heritage is advocating for more accommodations. Hampton identified as area of opportunity. Chris receiving stats and program information from TCH. Jill Ganong to look at CBDC CAS program for a potential feasibility study. Committee to discuss in detail at January 2026 session.
 - iii. Inventory of Commercial Rental Spaces: This continues to be a challenging area, especially for young / new entrepreneurs. Explore possibility of creating an 'incubator' space in Hampton.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. Committee Members 2026 / Chair – Chris White shared that the three members with first terms ending have agreed to remain for a second term (Marcelle Bélanger, Jill Ganong, Heather Libbey). Council decided that starting in 2026, the Council representative for each committee will take on the role of Chair for the committee. This is to foster more direct communication between committees and council. All thanked Josh Adams for his leadership as Chair and expressed appreciation that he will remain part of the committee.
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 October totaled 327 – that is 57 permits beyond our busiest year volume (2024), October saw 35 permits alone.
 - b. PAC Report: Chris Rendell shared an update on the recent PAC sessions regarding supportive housing development on Darlings Island and the huge community turnout for the sessions (both in favour and against). PAC voted against the two items reviewed and the matter taken back to Council and referred to Staff for further review. Economic Development Committee discussed possible impact to business community of seeing a development project stalled / refused and how to balance growth against residential pressures.
 - c. Chamber Report: Chris White shared that the Small Business Awards were a huge success and very well attended. Board is hosting 2026 Planning session next Monday. Chamber Perks app is getting a final push with membership – if no uptake this will be ended. A Holiday Mixer is planned for December 3rd at The Porch at 5:45pm. All encouraged to attend.

- d. Heather Libbey moved the adoption of the Reports; seconded by Paula Copeland.
- 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:** January 20, 2026
- 10. **Adjournment:** Todd Beach so moved at 7:46.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____