Economic Development & Tourism Committee
Hampton Town Hall
October 20, 2026, 6:00PM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Marcelle Bélanger, Councillor Brian Fowler, Jill Ganong, Heather Libbey

Regrets: Michel Boudreau, Josh Adams, Chris Rendell

Staff: Chris White, Dir. Economic Development & Tourism / Hannah Kindred Tourism Coordinator

1. **Call to Order**
   The meeting was called to order by Councillor Brian Fowler at 6:01 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Moved by Heather Libbey and seconded by Marcelle Bélanger to approve the agenda of the October 20, 2026, meeting with one addition from Councillor Fowler; 5.3 Security Camera Update.

   Motion Carried

3. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**
   None Declared.

4. **Approval of Minutes**
   Moved by Heather Libbey and seconded by Jill Ganong to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2026, meeting.

   Motion Carried

5. **Business Arising from Minutes:**
   - 5.1. Granny Suite / Secondary Suite campaign: Draft document reviewed; committee suggested changes terminology to make the document more user-friendly. Committee members to provide feedback before the end of the week
   - 5.2. Blue Trails Recreation opportunities 2027: Chris White shared plans to work with Recreation Department to offer a special paddling course as part of Lifesaving Week 2027 (grant funding to be explored by Recreation); also, Hooper family would like to host a 2027 spring paddle in honour of the late Rafe Hooper. Chris to explore with Hooper family and Osprey Adventures owner. Heather Libbey suggested getting info from Raisin River Canoe Race (ON) on hosting.

5.3. Security Camera Update: Councillor Fowler followed up on September discussion with Sgt. McCann last week who suggested it would be beneficial to the RCMP have more cameras available via area businesses. Discussion ensued with mixed opinions about cameras (perceived safety of community for tourism story; benefit to area businesses needing assistance). Explore further as part of budget discussions with Council.

6. New Business:

6.1. Tourism Update: Hannah Kindred provided overview of the 2026 tourism season at the Visitor Information Centre. Highlights included: numbers down somewhat, primarily in US visitors; Gift Shop sales approximately $8,000; survey issued to area operators on their season results; articles published by Maritimes Maven. Discussion included recommendation to keep river as backdrop for events and promotions as much as possible – highlight the opportunity of gentle river system. Request for more data comparing Hampton numbers to regional numbers – Hannah Kindred to address with Envision Saint John and Department of Tourism.

6.2. Filming in Hampton: film crew to conduct filming in Town Square / Snow's Ice Cream the week of November 23. Temporary road closure will be required for film scenes.

6.3. Sea Dogs Promotion Request: As part of regional collaboration with Sea Dogs, Hampton will host a contest in December for residents to win family pack of tickets to a Sea Dogs game. Contest will open at Winter Wonderland Dec 2, prize winner drawn at the Christmas Skate on December 23.

6.4. Events Schedule 2027: Chris White reviewed the town's proposed events for 2027

6.5. Proposed Workshop with Council on Business Attraction: discussion on a possible session to identify key criteria for Council on Business Attraction strategy (key areas, business types). Heather Libbey suggested the analysis must first recognize the space limitations for new businesses looking for rental locations.

6.6. Item tabled until the November meeting.

7. Reports:

7.1. Planning & Development Report: Chris White reviewed the building stats YTD.

7.2. PAC Report: Chris Rendell not able to attend – tabled to November meeting.

7.3. Chamber Report: Councillor Fowler reported new Executive Director, Jonathan Easton, has been hired. Awards event to take place at next Friday.

7.4. Approval of Reports: Moved by Jill Ganong and seconded by Heather Libbey to approve the reports.

Motion carried

8. Outstanding Issues: None.

9. Next Meeting

9.1. The next meeting will be scheduled for November 17, 2026, at 6:00pm.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Heather Libbey that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Approved:

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Councillor Brian Fowler	Chris White
Chair	Staff Representative