



## **The Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee (BDAPAC) Meeting**

Haldimand County Administration Building  
Thursday, June 29, 2023 9:00am – 11:00am

**Present:** Mayor Bentley, Councillor O'Neill, Chair Phil Hauser, Vice-Chair Mike Lessard, Tauri Caputo, Paul Makey, Russell McTear, George Naylor, Mark Reynolds

**Staff:** Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, Jessica Easson, Senior Economic Development Officer

**Regrets:** Adam Peet, Mike Evers, General Manager of Community & Development Services

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Hauser, at 9:03 a.m.

### **2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest declared.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Mayor Bentley and seconded by Vice-Chair Lessard that the minutes of the Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee dated May 15, 2023 be approved as presented.

**APPROVED**

### **4. Recycling Program Update**

L. Romanuk shared a presentation on behalf of Environmental Operations providing an overview of changes to the recycling program from being municipally led to producer led. Highlights of the discussion from the committee identified concerns that the added efforts that would be required by ICI properties to recycle would make it difficult for businesses to recycle and could result in more cardboard littering and garbage with recyclable items filling landfills. The added work/costs associated with recycling could deter individuals from opening a business in Haldimand. Staff advised that Environmental Operations has been actively seeking feedback from ICI properties although have had a low response rate. The committee speculated that businesses are perhaps unaware of the potential impacts and costs or didn't realize the importance of a response. Further discussion expressed opportunities for a new business, partnering with surrounding municipalities such as Norfolk County to offer ICI collection and exploring how other municipalities conduct ICI recycling.

Moved by Chair P. Hauser, seconded by M. Reynolds

THAT with the proposed changes to the ICI recycling program, this committee believes there will be a negative impact to both new, potential and existing businesses in the County and that Environmental Operations should continue engagement with the business community and explore other options.

**CARRIED**

## 5. Council Update

Mayor Bentley and Councillor O'Neill shared an update from Council:

- Cathy Case has stepped into the role of CAO
- Councillor Trainer was sworn in at the June 26, 2023 Council meeting as the new Ward 4 Councillor
- Council voted 4-2 on the motion regarding the MZO in Nanticoke and now remains in the hands of the Province
- Council approved the updated 1,642 m<sup>2</sup> design of the new Active Living Center
- Mayor Bentley shared highlights of her recent tour to the OPG solar farm and the battery storage facility project
- Lands in Dunnville to be developed by for a municipal housing agreement
- GEBC recent had their AGM and was pleased to hear about the collaborations with EDT

Discussion ensued.

## 6. Chair and Vice Chair Report

Chair P. Hauser shared that this Year's Mudcat Festival was a success.

## 7. Budget and Workplan Discussion

L. Romanuk began sharing ideas for work plan items based on the Council priorities and EDT work plan which included a tourism and attraction committee, physician recruitment, labour force study recommendations, data collection, etc.. Highlights of the Committee's discussion included:

- Tourism and attraction committee – shift and clarify mandates for BDAPAC to focus on existing business and a new committee to be actively engaged in attraction efforts and the tourism sector
- Looking into available lands for business development
- Frank Marshal Business Park developments
- Business Networking
- Business Parks and servicing lands throughout the County
- Promoting entrepreneurship, starting a business and downtowns targeting new residents
- Business Ambassadors, promoting the County and sharing information to potential businesses and insights to the County
- High level planning to proactively meet the needs of the future business environment
- The Development Concierge Team currently assists with employment generating developments although Planning Act changes are providing an opportunity to re-evaluate this team
- Physician Recruitment and offering incentives (recruiting physicians helps position the community competitively in the future)

L. Romanuk encouraged the committee to also start thinking about how they would like to allocate their budget and shared different professional development opportunities.

## 8. Past Homework Discussion

The committee discussed ideas arising from the homework: *Refine or develop an idea from Paul Makey's presentation recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Economic Development and Tourism Team.*

G. Naylor shared thoughts and ideas around establishing an organic recycling program in Haldimand. The committee further discussed opportunities to use garbage to create

energy and phasing out garbage burning due to environmental impacts. Discussion ensued.

Vice-Chair Mike Lessard shared the importance of storage for renewable energy. Discussion ensued about such land uses and energy in the future.

T. Caputo shared suggestions to encourage commercial development simultaneously to residential development and invest in business development so that new residents develop habits shopping locally by having businesses conveniently located. Discussion ensued.

Chair P. Hauser expressed how utilizing the river and the existing resources resonated. Discussion ensued.

## **9. EDT Updates**

L. Romanuk shared Economic Development and Tourism Divisional updates:

- A reminder to committee members to complete the training and sign off for AODA and the Integrity Commissioner
- North Caledonia Employment Lands update
- An agreement is in process for Mohawk City School - planning to offer a landscaping construction course for month of August
- Haldimand County EDT in partnership with the Brantford-Brant Business Resource Centre and the Grand Erie Business Centre recently held a hybrid business basics workshop on May 29<sup>th</sup>

## **10. New Business**

- a. New Homework - Chair P. Hauser proposed the new homework: Review Council priorities and the EDT workplan. With respect to this meetings discussions come up with work plan ideas.
- b. HBN – Vice Chair M. Lessard volunteered to attend the upcoming HBN meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> on behalf of BDAPAC.
- c. R. McTear shared there is a group of residents concerned about a new development within York and shared concerns regarding the capacity of water haulers and the limited water stations. A discussion ensued.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am, moved by T. Caputo seconded by P. Makey.