



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

Haldimand County Administration Building  
Monday, January 29, 2023 9:00am

**Present:** Mayor Bentley, Councillor O'Neil, Mike Lessard, Tauri Caputo, Paul Makey, George Naylor, Adam Peet

**Staff:** Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, Jaymie Nelson, Project Manager, Business Retention & Expansion, Hannah Brown, Research & Marketing Technician

**Regrets:** Mark Reynolds, Russell McTear, Phil Hauser

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

Meeting is called to order by Vice-Chair, M. Lessard at 9.02 a.m.

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

No declarations

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

Moved by G. Naylor and seconded by P. Makey that the minutes of the Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee dated November 20, 2023 be approved as presented at 9:03 am.

**APPROVED**

### **4. Chair and Vice Chair Report**

Vice Chair M. Lessard reminded the committee that this meeting will include a nomination and election of the Chair and Vice Chair.

### **5. Council Update**

Mayor Bentley and Councillor O'Neil provided a council update. Updates included:

- The ROMA (Rural Ontario Municipal Association) conference was held recently and had the largest attendance
- Applied to participate in several delegations with a number of ministries
- Ongoing discussion regarding battery storage facilities, meeting to be held this week to further discuss
- Upcoming capital budget meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2024

### **6. Business Retention and Expansion Presentation**

J. Nelson presented an update and overview of the Business Retention and Expansion project. Key Highlights included:

- Overview of the project
- Methodology and Analysis

- Key insights and Highlights:
  - Business Information
  - Business Climate
  - Future Plans
  - Business Development
  - Workforce
  - Community Development
- BR+E Outcomes
- 2024 Recommended Implementation Plans

A discussion then ensued including positive feedback and praise for the project and presentation.

Motion was made to support the 2023 Business Retention and Expansion project update, and to bring forward the recommended action plan as drafted for Council consideration. Moved by P. Makey and seconded by A. Peet at 10:19 am. Carried.

**APPROVED**

## **7. Past Homework - Workplan Priorities**

L. Romanuk initiated a workplan priority brainstorming activity by providing an overview of the top four topics previously determined by the committee.

Committee members contributed ideas to determine two priority activities for each key topic brought forward in previous committee meetings.

Top activities for the committee to prioritize were:

1. Business Attraction and Development:
  - Development of a Tourism and Attraction Committee
  - Quarterly Event for Job Fair Networking
2. Sector Development and Tourism:
  - Activating the river – Lower Grand River Visitor Experience Strategy
3. Data Collection:
  - Development of an Economic Data Dashboard
  - Property Inventory
4. Communications:
  - BDAPAC Report to Council
  - Integration of Community Business Resources and Networks
  -

## **8. Preparation for Council Presentation**

Vice Chair M. Lessard initiated discussion regarding the council presentation currently scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>. He invited committee members to attend the presentation

and committed to introducing members that are present. Presentation will be built out from previous presentation and recent work plan discussions .

## **9. Nomination of Chair and vice-chair**

Election of Chair

Mayor Bentley opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee

A. Peet nominated M. Lessard for Chair. G. Naylor seconded the nomination. M. Lessard accepted the nomination.

Mayor Bentley called three times for additional nominations. As there were no other members nominated, M. Lessard was declared Chair.

Mayor Bentley thanked the previous Chair, P. Hauser, for his time as Chair.

Election of Vice-Chair

Mayor Bentley opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee.

M. Lessard nominated P. Makey for Vice-Chair. G. Naylor seconded the nomination. P. Makey accepted the nomination.

Mayor Bentley called three times for additional nominations. As there were no other members nominated, P. Makey was declared Vice-Chair.

## **10. EDT Updates**

L. Romanuk shared Economic Development and Tourism Divisional updates. Updates included:

- Tourism Development Fund
- Spark Program update
- Digital Service Squad upcoming webinars
  - o March 5<sup>th</sup>: Lock the door to your data – Cyber security basics for small businesses
  - o March 26<sup>th</sup>: Unlock the power of your website
- Upcoming solar eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>
- The Business Excellence Event will take place April 18<sup>th</sup>
- Professional Development opportunity – Intelligent Community Forum

## **11. New Business**

G. Naylor inquired about the battery storage facility applications. Discussion then ensued.

P. Makey offered to lead the workplan activity, quarterly event for job fair networking.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am, moved by P. Makey seconded by G. Naylor.

**13. Action Items**

- a. Share community profile with committee