

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 | 9:00am
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT Chair Dave Eccles | Dave Ford | Bev Morgan | Tammy Louther | Dave Hocking | Mike Schierz | Jason Radstake | Curtis Schmalz

REGRETS Alicia Mawhinney (absent with notice)

OTHERS PRESENT April Marshall | Brenda Goetz | Don Tedford | Emily Morrison

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST Nil

DELEGATIONS Nil

DISCUSSIONS & DECISIONS

1. **Adoption of January 22nd, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Moved by DAVE HOCKING / Seconded by BEV MORGAN

THAT the minutes of the January 22nd, 2022 Regular Meeting be approved as printed and circulated.

CARRIED

2. **Business Arising from Minutes**

Nil

3. **Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population**

A. Marshall circulated the recent census data for population and dwelling results which were released on February 9, 2022. Hanover's current population is at 7,967 and there is a total of 3,788 private dwellings, reflecting a 3.6% and 13.9% increase respectively. The current population of the County of Grey is 100,905, a 7.5% increase since 2016. The Town of the Blue Mountains grew by 33.7%, ranked the 2nd highest rate of population growth in Canada.

The next major Census release for age / gender and Type of dwelling is on April 27, 2022.

4. **Strategic Plan Goals & Action Plan Update**

4.1. **HIPP Campaign Updates**

A. Marshall advised that a report will be presented to Council on February 22, 2022 to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Catapult Tech Network to recognize Hanover as a CTN Hub.

Work continues with Launch Pad to advance the HIPP Apprentice pillar. Launch Pad is getting set to unveil their new logo in collaboration. A March Break Open House will invite youth, families and employers to view the many amenities of the facility, promote training and program opportunities and advance distribution of the HIPP Apprentice toolkit, to connect youth and employers to resources for their apprenticeship journey.

4.2. **EV Chargers**

A. Marshall shared that ChargerQuest Inc. wishes to enter into a host agreement to install four EV Charging Stations in our Entertainment District. ChargerQuest Inc., shall assume all other associated costs for the installation and management.

4.3. **Saugeen Connects – Women’s Programming**

Saugeen Connects is hosting their second series of 10 virtual webinars to promote women entrepreneurship, launching on March 8th, 2022 in conjunction with an International Women’s Day event and keynote speaker. Upon completion of all sessions/paperwork, attendees may qualify for \$500 to invest in their business or use to overcome barriers to participating.

A. Marshall advised that Katrina Day has been retained as a Coordinator, a shared position with SEDC.

4.4. **Tourism**

A. Marshall updated the Committee stating that the Saugeen River Collaborative met with delegates from the Grand River to ascertain best opportunities to move the local initiative forward and learn from their experience.

4.5. **Workforce**

A. Marshall stated many local employers continue to experience issues with attracting skilled labour. The Western Ontario Wardens’ Caucus recently released their strategy report. Attainable / affordable housing and transportation are key issues. The Regional Advisory Committee through SEDC is working on a pilot program that will identify barriers within the current market and provide solutions to get people back into the workforce.

5. **Grey County Update**

A. Marshall stated that Grey County is further reviewing its online portal for the Job Fair and surveyed employers. The results were equally supportive of an in-person vs virtual format. It was decided to discontinue the virtual program membership at this time. Plans are underway to coordinate the larger model job fair being split and condensed to concentrate on additional geographical areas.

A. Marshall apprised the Committee members with issues relating to new immigrant attraction / retention. Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership will assist employers with training to diversify their workforce.

6. **Launch Pad Update**

E. Morrison stated that a presentation will be made to Hanover Council meeting on February 22nd, 2022 to launch the new logo and name: “Launch Pad Youth Skills & Technology Centre”. Launch Pad will be partnering with HIPP Apprenticeship campaign to engage employers with training and employment opportunities. The facility will continue to promote the values of innovation, empowerment and inclusivity, offering a safe environment for youth.

Programs commenced on February 7th, and will continue through March Break. A March Break Open House is scheduled from March 15 to 17 from 10am to 2pm. Snacks will be prepared by culinary students. Spring/Summer programming is underway.

Board of Directors has approved pursuing Neptune Scoops this summer. E. Morrison is investigating infrastructure.

E. Morrison has applied for funding of a pilot project of the Ontario Student Funding program to promote accessibility. A. Marshall advised there is a recent intake for RED Funding for skill & workforce development. It is anticipated to hire someone to facilitate opportunities between youth and employers.

7. **Hanover Chamber of Commerce Update**

C. Schmalz advised that the Chamber members met yesterday. Nomination forms are available for Business and Citizen of the Year Awards. The Chamber is anticipating scheduling luncheon meetings in the near future. AGM Awards event will be held at the Hanover Drive-In in August.

8. **Saugeen Municipal Airport Update**

D. Hocking updated the Committee members that Airport Commission members passed the annual budget. The Airport Manager will be presenting and engaging the economic development committee in their business plan. The Airport Commission is collaborating with COPA and investigating stakeholder comments and approval.

9. **New Business**

9.1. **Plein Air Festival**

B. Morgan announced that artists will be invited to participate in a Plein Air Festival in Hanover from July 20 to 24, 2022. A showcase event will be organized on July 24th to display and auction work completed during that timeframe. D. Hocking has communicated with the local high school art departments regarding this event to involve local youth.

9.2. **In-Person Meetings**

A. Marshall will circulate a survey to assess preference of committee members to resume in-person versus virtual meetings.

9.3 **Development**

D. Tedford updated the Committee members with current developments in Town.

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by CURTIS SCHMALZ

THAT this meeting now be adjourned at 9:55 am

Chair, Dave Eccles

Committee Secretary, April Marshall