

ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ACED)

MINUTES May 25, 2023

A regular meeting of the ACED Board was held at the Township of Strong Office and virtually on May 25, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Present: Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry
Sheri Norman, AHCC Representative
Rod Ward, Township of Armour
Dan Robertson, Township of Ryerson
Chris Nicholson, Township of Joly
Justine Leveque, Village of Sundridge
Tim Bryson, Township of Strong
Ron Begin, FedNor
Trista Porter, MND
Luke Preston, RTO12

Regrets: Jennifer Farquhar, AHCC Representative
Chris Hope, Village of Burk's Falls
Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour
Brenda Scott, Village of South River

Staff: Dave Gray, Director of Economic Development
Courtney Metcalf, Economic Development Officer
John Theriault, Township of Armour

Guests: Heather Pateman, Town of Kearney

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday April 27, 2023 meeting were adopted as circulated.

Round Table Introductions

New members and guests at the table were introduced.

Director's Report

The Director covered the following items from the report:

1. An update on core activity tracking, which lists what the department has done over the past month. These included business assistance, marketing, ACED website updates, social media activities, and communications.
2. Some of the updates in the report included:
 - a) BR&E Survey – Three interviews scheduled and one more survey completed.
 - b) Business Support Events – Organizing an employer workshop for early June.
 - c) AHCC Partnerships – Staff wrote the welcome article for the AHCC Community Guide. Participating in the AHCC Social Event on May 24th, 2023.
 - d) Municipal Support – Staff attended the May 4th, 2023 Kearney Council meeting. Staff is sending more information to Kearney.
 - e) Long Term Housing – Staff is presently compiling research and data to support future planning recommendations to encourage housing developments. Will continue to collect information to help our area increase housing starts. The Board had a discussion on what area municipalities could do to help with housing. The Board passed a resolution recommending a regional approach to a housing strategy and the creation of a task force.
 - f) Transportation – All new carpool signs are in place. ACED will now advertise this service.

Staff provided some information of the bus service in Burk's Falls. Hoping to start discussions on expanding this service.

- g) Brand Strategy Implementation – Scheduling and attending spring content shoots and developing some footage of families walking the Heritage River Walk and ATVing in Katrine.

Consulting support for the brand strategy implementation is moving forward. Discussing the launch of the Brand Ambassador program. A Brand Ambassador partnership framework and memorandum of understanding will formalize the linkages between brand partners and ACED. Documents are available for review.

Adventure Maps are now available to the public.

- h) Internship Application – Has not been approved yet. Hoping to have more news at the meeting.
- i) Primary Care Expansion – AHHC is requesting a letter of support from all municipalities to help acquire funding for renovations to the medical centres in Burk’s Falls and Sundridge. ACED has already provided a letter of support.
- j) Bill 10 – A discussion was held on the subject of stopping harassment and abuse by local leaders. Some ACED member municipalities have supported the bill and via Council resolutions.

Round Table Comments from Board Members

A short discussion was held concerning Bill 10 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders. More information will be gathered about this bill and more discussion will be held at the next Board meeting.

Updates

FedNor

The application for the 2024 CIINO grant has received approval to move forward to Phase 2. Partners are asked to forward any projects they would like to see completed by ACED in the next three years to be forwarded to ACED staff so they can be included in the Phase 2 application.

There is a new \$100,000,000 tourism fund which has been approved by the Federal Government. More information about this fund will be forthcoming.

MND

NOHFC is supporting many great projects in our area. Funds are being allocated to local municipalities.

Please keep MND in the loop concerning the housing strategy. MND will try to get some information about housing to municipalities. Recommending that we start now looking for volunteers for the housing task force.

MND is still accepting applications for projects.

Explorer’s Edge

Luke Preston, Regenerative Project Manager, from Explorer’s edge has been in the position for a month and a half. He is learning the position and will offer updates to the Board on a monthly basis. He is presently managing their partnership program which offers 50% funding for approved projects.

Resolutions

1. 2023-15 – Moved by Chris Nicholson; Seconded by Justine Leveque;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of April 27, 2023, as circulated. Carried
2. 2023-17 – Moved by Tim Bryson; Seconded by Rod Ward;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic development Board recommends that all municipal partners discuss, at their upcoming regular council meetings, the formation of a regional approach to housing development. Further, that they discuss the creation of a regional task force to address opportunities and barriers regarding housing development. The task force will report back to ACED and all member municipalities within three months of formation. Carried

Adjournment

3. 2023-16 – Moved by Tim Bryson; Seconded by Rod Ward;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn the May 25, 2023, ACED meeting at 7:31 p.m. Carried

The next meeting will be Thursday June 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. If these changes, members will be advised.