

**BURK'S FALLS AND AREA
ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(ACED)**

**MINUTES
December 16, 2019**

The meeting was held at the Strong Municipal Office on December 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Tim Brunton, Township of Magnetawan
Melanie Alkins, MENDM
Tim Bryson, Township of Joly
Kelly Elik, Township of Strong
Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour
Celia Finley, Township of Ryerson
Jennifer Farquhar, AHCC Representative
Ron Begin, FedNor
Lewis Hodgson, Village of Burk's Falls

Regrets: Margaret Ann McPhail, Township of Perry
Barb Belrose, Village of Sundridge
Peter Mclsaac, Municipality of Powassan
Brenda Scott, Village of South River

Staff: Dave Gray, Director of Economic Development
John Theriault, Township of Armour
Courtney Metcalf, Economic Development Officer
Nicky Kunkel, Village of Burk's Falls
Nancy Fields, Township of Ryerson
Nicole Gourlay, Municipality of Magnetawan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes

That the minutes of Monday November 18, 2019 meeting were adopted as circulated.

Director of Economic Development Report

The Board received and reviewed the monthly report from the Director of Economic Development. Under the website section of the report, it was proposed that funding opportunities like grants should be on the ACED website.

New Business & Developments

2020 Draft ACED Workplan

Director of Economic Development presented a draft workplan for 2020. The Board discussed the workplan and requested the following changes:

- 1) Business Retention & Expansion by Industry
The draft workplan calls for the focus to be on manufacturing and construction, but a follow up on agriculture should be included in the plan. **Supply chain review should be added as a secondary objective for applicable industries.**
- 2) Investment Asset/Property Inventory:
If it is to be relevant, this inventory should be updated more the twice a year, more like every month. It was also suggested that if Real Estate agents are not willing to send us updates then this inventory could be irrelevant. **Contacting the Real Estate Board was recommended.** The discussion also revolved around the fact that this inventory includes municipal properties which could be used for commercial and industrial businesses. i.e. Industrial Parks.
- 3) **Accommodations inventory should include considerations for assisting with expansions where possible.**
- 4) Shop Local Campaign(s)
It was discussed that the description should be reworded to better describe **the focus on researching the retail renaissance component. Contacting the Huntsville Lake of Bay's Chamber of commerce was recommended.**
- 5) Creating In-Roads to Almaguin Highlands Secondary School;
The plan should include ways that High Schools could promote young entrepreneurs. Young entrepreneurs could use their obligatory volunteer hours to start businesses.

Additional comments included:

- **That the plan did not include any support and growth for recreation and tourism.**
- **That the plan lacked significant focus on pursuing niche agricultural opportunities. The CEDO discussed that opportunities arise during business consultations and that the stakeholder engagement strategy for 2020 would also assist in agricultural growth. and**
- **that the plan should be prioritized, have timelines included for each project.**

After the discussion, members were asked to review the workplan and forward comments and proposed changes to the Director of Economic Development before the next meeting so they can be circulated in the next agenda and discussed at the January 2020 meeting.

2020 Draft Budget

The Board reviewed the draft 2020 budget. A discussion ensued on the benefits of going to conferences. The Board supported spending monies to send employees to conferences. Some corrections will be made to the budget sheets and will be recirculated to Board members for discussion at the January 2020 meeting.

Teeny Tiny Summit

Almaguin and Powassan have submitted an expression of interest to be the host for the 2020 Teeny Tiny Summit, which is an Economic Development Summit for communities of 1,000 residents or less. If they are selected, the ACED department has offered their help for this event.

Updates

OBIAA and NOHFC Grants for Communication & Marketing Officer

In 2019 ACED was approved to receive a grant of \$30,000 from OBIAA and one of \$31,500 from NOHFC to fund a Communication & Marketing Officer for ACED and the Digital Main Street Program. Because we did not spend as much as anticipated, the OBIAA grant was extended to May 1st, 2020 and the NOHFC grant will not start until March 1st, 2020. This will give ACED as chance to maximize the grant dollars we are getting and extend the position, at least until the end of 2020. ACED will be applying for another NOHFC grant to continue this position after the first grant expires.

FedNor

The Federal Government has designated a Member of Parliament to advise the Minister responsible for FedNor. FedNor is now back on track after the election.

NOHFC

New Celebrate Ontario grant program is out. It is a program which supports festivals and events to either create them or help them grow. Our NOHFC representative will be available to help with applications.

Resolutions

1. 2019-022 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell; Seconded by Kelly Elik;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of November 18, 2019, as circulated. Carried

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday January 27th, 2019 at the Strong Municipal Office.