

ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ACED)

MINUTES October 19, 2020

A regular meeting of the ACED Board was held at the Township of Strong Municipal Office on October 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour, Chair
Kelly Elik, Township of Strong
Dulcie Pascoe, AHCC Representative
Barb Belrose, Village of Sundridge
Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry
Melanie Alkins, MENDM
Delynne Patterson, Township of Ryerson
Brenda Scott, Village of South River
Ron Begin, FedNor
Peter Mclsaac, Municipality of Powassan

Regrets: Tim Brunton, Municipality of Magnetawan
Tim Bryson, Township of Joly
Jennifer Farquhar, AHCC Representative

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

Presenter: Melanie Alkins, MENDM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Minutes

That the minutes of Monday September 21, 2020 meeting were adopted, as circulated.

Presentations

Melanie Alkins from MENDM made a presentation to the Board on the Northern Ontario Recovery Program which is available to help businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is for businesses that have existed for at least one year. The application period is from October 1 to December 31, 2020 on a first come first serve basis.

Director of Economic Development (DED) Report

The ACED Board reviewed the October report from the Director of Economic Development.

The Director covered the following items from the report;

1. The Harvest Spin Series went very well with 119 participants and the project coming in under budget.
2. The Regional Brand Strategy project has reached the end of phase 1 and the consultant reported to staff on their progress. The project is now entering phase 2.
3. Following the receipt of a new grant, Digital Main Street 2.0 is now going forward and is being well received.
4. The Board reviewed the draft final report for the Agriculture and Culinary Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. Some amendments will be made to the draft report and the final report will be presented at the next meeting. Input into the draft report will be accepted until Wednesday October 18, 2020. The Board passed a resolution accepting the report and approving payment for the work.
5. The Board discussed the draft 2021 budget for the ACED Department. The draft budget shows that to keep the department going contributions from each municipality will have to be increased. Board members requested staff amend any errors and present a budget with a \$10,000 contribution (of \$5000 where applicable) and the consequences of such a budget.
6. The Director discussed the "COVID-19 Response Activities Highlights" sheet included in the agenda with the Board. He asked if this kind of reporting is what the Board would like to see. The Board thought it gave some good and quick information and they like the way it was presented.

Updates

FedNor

Ron Begin from FedNor advised the Board that FedNor is still accepting application for the Recovery Stimulus Program. Chambers of Commerce can apply for help during the pandemic. FedNor employees are still working from home and have to get special permission to travel.

NOHFC

Still working from home and not allowed to travel. Working on the Northern Ontario Recovery Program.

Other Business

The Director discussed a memo he received from one of the Board members requesting that staff have better communications with the partner's councils. The member thought we could do a better job marketing ACED to the partners. The Director asked the board if there are changes that they would like to see regarding the format or structure of reports. The Director also requested feedback from the board regarding specific challenges they have in communicating ACED business to their respective councils. Some Board members indicated that they may see value in having staff attend occasional Council meetings to discuss ACED projects and business. The Director asked Board members to

consider any items that would benefit their councils and bring feedback to the November ACED meeting.

Resolutions

1. 2020-034 – Moved by Kelly Elik; Seconded by Barb Belrose;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of September 21, 2020, as circulated. Carried
2. 2020-035 – Moved by Barb Belrose; Seconded by Margaret-Ann MacPhail;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board accept the Agricultural and Culinary Stakeholder Engagement Strategy provided by Strexer Harrop, approves the finalization of the report pending the implementation of any changes required by the Board or ACED staff and recommends that the Township of Armour pay any outstanding balance pending receipt of the amended report.
3. 2020-36 – Moved by Kelly Elik; Seconded by Delynne Patterson;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board move into closed session at 8:00 p.m. as per Section 239 (b) of the *Municipal Act*, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.
4. 2020-37 – Moved by Barb Belrose; Seconded by Peter McIsaac;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Development Board hereby adjourn and move out of closed session at 8:31 p.m. and report.

Adjournment

5. 2020-038 – Moved by Barb Belrose; Seconded by Dulcie Pascoe;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn the October 19, 2020 ACED meeting at 8:32 p.m. Carried

The next meeting will be November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. If this changes, members will be advised.